

Press Release

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information



Mayor Signs Emergency Declaration for the City of New Castle City Offices Closed to the Public, but City Services Will Continue

Mayor Quaranta has signed an emergency Declaration on March 17, 2020 outlining the City's response to the Coronavirus.

City of New Castle offices are open for City personnel, but closed to the general public through at least May 31, 2020. At this time, City services such as trash, yard waste, and recycle pick up will continue as normally scheduled.

In conjunction with the recommendations put forth in the State of Emergency mandated by the Governor, along with the recommendations by the CDC, effective immediately, the City is cancelling all public events through the end of May.

The City of New Castle is taking every precaution to prioritize community health and well-being. During the coming weeks, following the direction of public health officials and the strong possibility of any unforeseen changes in circumstances, the City will revise plans as appropriate.

We will continue to monitor this extremely serious and fluid situation and will provide updates as they become available. We strongly encourage residents and our business partners to check our website and Facebook page as often as possible for updates; or call the City offices with any questions at 322-9801.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these very challenging circumstances.

**DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF NEW
CASTLE DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT**

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that a novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) presents a serious public health threat; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Delaware Governor John Carney issued a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 public health threat, effective on March 13, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. EST; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 Governor Carney amended his State of Emergency declaration to expand the restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, Governor Carney also issued a Proclamation on or about March 13, 2020 permitting meetings of public bodies governed by 29 Del. C. §§10001 et seq. to be held electronically; and

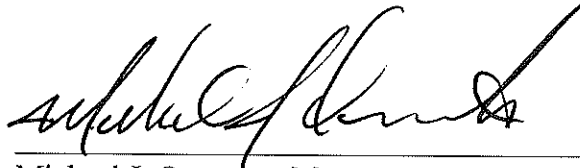
WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 Richard P. McCabe, Chief of Police issued a Certification of Emergency stating that available police resources in the City are insufficient to control the coronavirus situation effectively without possible injury or illness to persons in the City as well as law enforcement personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL J. QUARANTA, Mayor of the City of New Castle, pursuant to Chapter 28 of the City of New Castle Code, do hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists in the City of New Castle and shall remain in effect until further notice. The nature of the emergency is the public health threat from the COVID-19 virus. I specifically direct and authorize the following:

1. Except as modified herein, all restrictions and limitations provided for in Governor Carney’s emergency declaration of March 12, 2020, as amended, and Governor Carney’s Proclamation of March 13, 2020 are hereby incorporated by reference in this Declaration.
2. Effective March 18, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. EST, organizers and sponsors of public gatherings of 10 or more people shall cancel the gatherings immediately and not reschedule them until after May 31, 2020, or the public health threat of COVID-19 has been eliminated.
3. All public events sponsored by the City of New Castle are hereby canceled through May 31, 2020.
4. All permits for parades and public assemblies issued by the City of New Castle pursuant to Chapter 171 of the City Code are hereby canceled and revoked effective immediately.

5. All meetings of City Boards and Commissions (excluding meetings of City Council) are hereby canceled until after May 31, 2020.
6. All deadlines imposed by the City Code for action by City personnel, boards, commissions or agencies in the scheduling of meetings or hearings, or in the rendering of responses or decisions of any nature are hereby stayed and tolled until after May 31, 2020.
7. While City offices will remain open for City personnel, they shall be closed to the general public through May 31, 2020. Persons needing to conduct business with the City are advised to do so via telephone by calling (302) 322-9801 or via the internet by accessing the City's website at newcastlecity.delaware.gov.

APPROVED this 17th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Quaranta", written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Quaranta, Mayor