

Town of Berwyn Heights response to Coronavirus -COVID-19 For public release - Updated March 20, 2020

Due to ongoing concerns about the possible spread of the Coronavirus (COVID19), the Berwyn Heights Town Council and staff have taken the following actions to protect the health and safety of our residents and staff:

State of Emergency declared: A local State of Emergency has been signed by Mayor Isler and is effective as of March 13, 2020 at 5 p.m. and will remain in effect until the State of Maryland's State of Emergency is lifted. At a minimum, the following contingencies will be in place in the Town of Berwyn Heights through May 15, 2020. A local declaration of a state of emergency allows the Town to access resources from other jurisdictions and the State of Maryland, if the need arises. The state of emergency declaration also allows the Town Council to suspend the Council Rules and Ordinances as deemed in the best interest of the operations of the Town in order to protect the health and safety of its residents and employees.

Senior Center: Pursuant to the State of Maryland State of Emergency declaration, the Berwyn Heights Senior Center is closed until further notice.

Events: All events, public and private, scheduled for Town Center and any other town-owned property, including Berwyn Heights Day, have been canceled through May 15th.

Town organization and committee meetings: All meetings of Town organizations and committees are canceled through May 15th, unless specifically approved by the Town Manager.

Town Hall and Police Department Administrative offices: The Berwyn Heights Town Hall and the Police Department administrative offices will remain open, but certain services have been suspended or will not be offered in person. Residents are encouraged to, whenever possible, access services electronically, through the U. S. mail or via telephone. See details and phone numbers below.

Town Hall:

General inquiries: In order to limit in-person contact with town staff, please refrain from coming to Town Hall as much as possible. General inquiries or concerns should be made over the phone by calling (301) 474-5000.

Notary services: All notary services provided at Town Hall have been suspended until the State of Emergency is lifted.

Closed, Friday, March 27: Town Hall will be closed on March 27th while carpeting is installed.

Police Department:

Calls for service: The Police Department will continue to answer calls for service and conduct patrols as normal, however, on certain calls, the police dispatcher, or the police officers may ask health-related screening questions related to flu-like symptoms and recent travel. Some, non-emergency report calls that can be handled over the phone may be handled in that manner by officers. For any questions or concerns, please call our administrative number at (301) 474-6554 or the non-emergency at (301) 352-1200. For emergencies, please dial 9-1-1.

Health screening of visitors: For the safety of everyone within our Police Department administrative offices, all staff, as well as police officers, and visitors must have their temperatures checked prior to being granted access to enter the building. Any person registering a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, will be denied access to the building facility. Upon registering a temperature at or above 100 degrees, a second scan will be performed. If the second scan also registers 100 degrees or higher, the person will be advised that they are denied access to enter. This scan is mandatory and cannot be refused for health and safety reasons.

Parking tickets: To discourage folks from coming to the Berwyn Heights Police Department to pay parking tickets, a grace period through May 15th has been added for the payment of all parking tickets.

Notary services: Notary services for emergency and exigent circumstances such as powers-of-attorney and anything related to the Coronavirus-COVID-19 will be provided. All other notary services will be suspended until the State of Emergency is lifted.

Code Compliance: All building permits and rental applications will be accepted electronically via email or through the U. S. mail only. Payments will be accepted in check form only, through the U.S. mail. Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit card payment through the internet or over the phone. All rental permit applications and payments are due as scheduled, with no change in expiration dates. All rental inspections will be rescheduled until after the State of Emergency is lifted. The Code Compliance Department staff will contact property owners to reschedule.

Town Council Meetings:

Electronic meetings: No in-person Town Council meetings will be held until the State of Emergency is lifted. All meetings will be attended by the Town Council and staff electronically. Meetings will be broadcast via the town cable channel. Residents will be instructed on how to participate in these meetings. Staff will continue to monitor guidance provided by the State and will make timely recommendations if any further changes become necessary.

Town Hall meetings: The Town Hall meeting scheduled for April 8th has been postponed until April 15th. The May 13th Town Hall meeting will be held on May 13th. The Town Council and staff will conduct these meetings electronically. Residents will not be allowed to participate in-person at these meetings but will be instructed on how to participate remotely in these meetings.

Work sessions: At this time, all Town Council Work Sessions scheduled through May 15th have been cancelled. All discussion of action items under Council consideration normally held at a work session will be held at the Town Hall meeting in which they are introduced

Budget retreat: The Town Council budget retreat scheduled for March 28th will continue as scheduled but will not be open for the public to participate in person. Contingencies will be in place for the public to participate electronically.

Town Council elections: Town Council elections will not be held in person on May 5th. Residents and candidates will be informed about changes to the Town Council elections as soon as that information is available.

Trash collection and other Department of Public Works services: We will continue to provide services as normally scheduled. For the health and safety of our crew, residents are asked to limit direct in-person contact with our staff.

Important Town of Berwyn Heights phone numbers:

Town Hall: (301) 474-5000

Police Department non-emergency communications: (301) 352-1200

Police Department administrative inquiries: (301) 474-6554

Emergencies: Dial 9-1-1

For your health and safety: Residents are encouraged to follow protocols put out by the Prince George's County and Maryland Departments of Health to avoid exposure to Coronavirus (COVID19). If you have questions or concerns about the Coronavirus, please call the **Prince George's County Coronavirus Hotline at (301) 883-6627.**