

**County Executive
of
Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order: 2020-03
Dated: *March 16, 2020*
Subject: **Declaration of Emergency in
Howard County****

WHEREAS, I, Calvin Ball, the duly elected County Executive for Howard County, Maryland, have been authorized by order of the Governor of Maryland, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., dated March 12, 2020, to suspend certain legal deadlines under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, pursuant to his authority under Title 14, subtitle 3 and subtitle 3a of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19, a communicable respiratory disease that may result in serious injury or death, within the State of Maryland, including Howard County, a political subdivision of the State, and that emergency still exists; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Hogan signed an executive order recognizing that the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as a result, employers such as the State of Maryland and Howard County, may experience increased employee absence and alternative work agreements that may impact Howard County's ability to timely process permits and other government authorizations and the ability of Howard County and members of the public to comply with certain legal time requirements and deadlines; and

WHEREAS, in his March 12, 2020, Executive Order, the Governor has recognized that the suspension of such deadlines and legal time requirements may aid in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and, as a result, such actions are necessary to save lives; and

WHEREAS, in his March 12, 2020, Executive Order, the Governor has ordered that deadlines for all licenses, permits, registrations, and other authorizations issued by the State of Maryland and any political subdivision, such as Howard County, that would expire or be renewable during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency declared by the Governor be extended to the 30th day after the state of emergency is terminated and catastrophic

health emergency rescinded; and

WHEREAS, in his March 12, 2020, Executive Order, the Governor authorized the head of a local government, such as the County Executive for Howard County, to “suspend the effect of any legal or procedural deadline, due date, time of default, time expiration, period of time, or other time of an act or event described within any State or local statute, rule, or regulation that it administers,” provided that the head of the local government: 1) finds that “the suspension will not endanger the public health, welfare, or safety; 2) notifies the Governor of the intended action; and 3) provides reasonable notice of the public of any such suspension; and

WHEREAS, suspension of certain legal or procedural deadlines, due dates, times of default, times of expiration, periods of time, or other times of an act or event described in ordinances, rules, or regulations administered by Howard County is necessary to aid in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 to Howard County Government employees and members of the public who do business with Howard County or are involved in matters administered by Howard County and that suspension as authorized by the Governor and as set out herein will not endanger the public health, welfare, or safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED by the County Executive of Howard County, Maryland that, in accordance with the authority granted by the Executive Order of Governor Hogan, authorized by authority granted to him under Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, and dated March 12, 2020, **THAT**

THE GOVERNOR’S SUSPENSION OF DEADLINES FOR ALL LICENSES, PERMITS, REGISTRATIONS, OR OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS, AS SET OUT IN THE GOVERNOR’S MARCH 12, 2020, EXECUTVE ORDER, APPLIES TO THOSE ISSUED BY HOWARD COUNTY UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE; AND

THE EFFECT OF ANY AND ALL LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL DEADLINES, DUE DATES, TIMES OF DEFAULT, TIME EXPIRATION, PERIOD OF TIME, OR OTHER TIME OF AN ACT OR EVENT DESCRIBED WITHIN ANY HOWARD COUNTY ORDINANCE, RULE, OR REGULATION THAT IS ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNTY, IS HEREBY SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE GOVERNOR IS TERMINATED AND THE CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECARED BY THE GOVERNOR IS RESCINDED, AND THAT SUCH SUSPENSION DOES NOT ENDANGER THE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, OF THE PUBLIC; AND

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

1. Before signing this Executive Order, I have notified the Governor of my intent to

- suspend legal and procedural deadlines as set out in this Executive Order; and
2. This Executive Order shall be promptly publicized; and
 3. A copy shall be filed with the Administrator to the County Council of Howard County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Calvin Ball, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland, have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 16th day of March 2020.



Calvin Ball
County Executive