

**County Executive
of
Howard County, Maryland**

Executive Order: 2020-04

Dated: April 8, 2020

**Subject: Suspension of Certain Legal and
Procedural Deadlines**

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of the State of Maryland, 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, since March 12, 2020, Governor Hogan has issued several executive orders which apply to all political subdivisions in the State of Maryland, including Howard County, including a stay-at-home order and restrictions on businesses and movement of citizens into and in the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, I issued Executive Order No. 2020-02 that declared a state of emergency in Howard County pursuant to the authority of section 6.103 of the Howard County Code, and on March 20, 2020, the County Council for Howard County passed a resolution extending the state of emergency until terminated by order of the County Executive or until Governor Hogan terminates the state of emergency for the State; and

WHEREAS, in his March 12, 2020 Executive Order, the Governor authorized the head of a local government to “suspend the effect of any legal or deadline, due dates, times of default, times expiration, period of time, or other times 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 provides reasonable notice to the public of any such suspension; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, in accordance with the authority granted by the Executive Order of Governor Hogan, I issued Executive Order No. 2020-03 that suspends 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 to aid in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 to Howard County employees and members of the public who do business with Howard County or are involved in matters administered by Howard County; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, Governor Hogan issued an executive order requiring citizens of the State to stay at home except as necessary to carry out essential functions, recognizing that continuity of essential government operations is necessary to protect the public health, safety,

and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing COVID-19 emergency may persist for an unknown, but potentially prolonged period of time, which requires the evaluation and re-evaluation of critical government functions and the determination that certain identified processes are necessary to ensure continuity of the Howard County Government to benefit the citizens of the County and promote their health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, appointed directors of Executive Branch departments have the expertise to evaluate and determine what processes in their respective departments are necessary for the efficient continuity of government and whether re-institution of certain identified 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 the Executive branch of the Howard County Government is in the best interest of the Howard County Government and County residents and whether that may be done so safely; and

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 the authority granted to him under Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, and dated March 12, 2020:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-03 REMAINS IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT A DIRECTOR OF A DEPARTMENT IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT DETERMINES THAT THE REIMPOSITION OF A 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 HOWARD COUNTY ORDINANCE, RULE OR REGULATION THAT THE DIRECTOR, OR UNIT WITHIN THE DIRECTOR'S DEPARTMENT, ADMINISTERS IS NECESSARY FOR CONTINUITY OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COUNTY AND ITS CITIZENS, AND MAY BE DONE WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE; AND

SUCH DECISIONS SHOULD BE PROMPTLY PUBLICIZED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GIVE MEANINGFUL NOTICE TO THE CITIZENS OF HOWARD COUNTY;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that:

1. This Executive Order shall be promptly publicized; and
2. A copy filed with the Administrator to the County Council of Howard County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Calvin B. Ball, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland, have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 8th day of April 2020.





Calvin B. Ball
County Executive