



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN AUTHORIZED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

MARCH 15, 2020: The Town of South Kingstown is monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, is following State and Federal guidance to help promote the health and safety of our community, and is implementing additional precautionary measures to reduce opportunities for COVID-19 transmission in South Kingstown.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Town Council held an emergency meeting on Sunday March 15th, 2020. At the meeting, the Council voted to approve an Ordinance to “hereby declare the existence of an emergency. The basis for the Council’s emergency declaration is the danger to health and life posed by the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19.” Based on this local declaration of emergency, several license and permit types are revoked effective immediately, and for all license types, “license holders are restricted from serving or gathering more than half the occupancy under the fire code, up to 100 patrons, at a time”. In addition, all non-essential public meetings are cancelled. The Council “delegates the authority to the Town Manager to take any and all actions deemed necessary to address the ongoing emergency.” The Ordinance takes effect immediately, and remains in effect through April 15th, 2020, unless the Council votes to renew, modify, or terminate the Ordinance. The full Declaration of Emergency Ordinance is attached to this Press Release for ease in reference.

During this pandemic, all residents are strongly encouraged to minimize their risk through the use of social distancing, proper handwashing, and proper cough and sneeze etiquette. The Town echoes the guidance issued by the Governor that residents should avoid crowded places and to please stay home except for running essential errands such as going to the grocery store. All residents are strongly encouraged to remain home if you are sick or under self-quarantine. All residents are strongly encouraged to stay up to date on the Federal, State, and local response to and guidance on the evolving COVID-19 situation. Please visit the Town’s COVID-19 webpage for up to date information and links to Federal, State, and local resources www.southkingstownri.com/998/COVID-19.

Because of the evolving nature of this ongoing community health situation, the Town may implement additional mitigation measures with short notice, and the information provided here is subject to change. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. For additional updates from the Town, as well as information and resources related to COVID-19, we encourage residents to visit www.southkingstownri.com. Updates and information will also be shared via the Town’s official Facebook page, www.facebook.com/southkingstownri. Questions can be referred to the Town Manager’s Office at (401) 789-9331 x1201.