

**This update is to assure our residents we are functioning properly, and providing the basic services and protections expected by our residents during these unprecedented times. The Mayor, City Council President, City Administrator, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Municipal Services General Manager/Secretary to the Commission discuss and coordinate daily. Here is helpful information:**

*The City is open and serving the public.*

City staff, located at 220 Delaware St., will be working from home, though at least one person will be in the office daily. Call us at 322-9801 with any questions concerning any services.

The City Public Works team has a protocol for separation of our public works department crews. We continue to be as diligent as we can, scrubbing and cleaning our facilities regularly during the day. You can help slow the spread of germs by wiping down the handles of your trash, yard waste or recycling bins after placing them near the curb for pickup.

Our city is taking steps to encourage “social and physical separation”. Although our parks remain open, we have fenced around playground equipment, closed basketball and tennis courts, and public bathrooms. We have put up signage reminding people of the need for physical separation. Please abide by CDC guidelines regarding COVID - 19.

New Castle City Police continue to patrol neighborhoods while responding to in-progress calls and emergency situations; the New Castle City Police would like to ensure our citizens that protecting and serving the public is their top priority.

The New Castle City Police ask our citizens for understanding as they try to protect themselves, as well as the public, from COVID-19. Dispatchers will ask essential questions regarding the health of the person(s) requiring police assistance and officers may ask you to exit your home and keep a safe distance while speaking to one another. Their headquarters is closed to the public and citizens are encouraged to call the non-emergency number, (302) 573-2800, if police assistance is needed.

Your electric power and water staff at the MSC have been meeting with City of New Castle leaders and local emergency first responders daily to promote communication and make informed decisions.

The MSC has also been communicating with other utility providers and have reaffirmed all Mutual Aid agreements are in place. These agreements promote cooperation and assistance from other Delaware municipalities with electric power and water teams who are prepared to step in and help our community should we need backup.

MSC began team isolation of its staff to limit the risk of personnel becoming infected. Thorough and ongoing cleaning is taking place at all MSC locations and public exposure has been limited by performing functions on-line and over the telephone. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the MSC at 302-323-2330.

The Good Will Fire Company is in contact with Departments around the State of Delaware and affirming readiness plans and sharing experiences. The GWFC, like the New Castle Police Department, asks for your understanding in these challenging times. When calling for services related to health, expect to be asked questions from a safe distance as we seek to keep our team members healthy and on the job for you. Be assured that once we have assessed your situation, we'll jump in and do our job.

City leaders are monitoring the situation and conferring daily to address issues as they arise. Please check our City website and Facebook page frequently. Critical and time-sensitive information will be shared via automated phone calls through the MSC. For more information, don't hesitate to call or email City or MSC staff, the Mayor or any Council member. We will do our best to answer questions and address your needs.

Together, we will manage through this public health challenge. We are asking that everyone respect the guidelines from the CDC, Governor Carney's office, and Emergency Declarations made by the Mayor. For more information, please call the Delaware Division of Public Health at 866-408-1899 or email at [DPHcall@delaware.gov](mailto:DPHcall@delaware.gov). Other helpful resources include <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> for updated information on the COVID-19 virus.

**FIRST MODIFICATION OF THE 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 (CDC) 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 17, 2020 Michael J. Quaranta, Mayor of the City of New Castle issued a state of emergency in the City due to the COVID-19 public health threat pursuant to Chapter 28 of the City Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 28-3 of the City Code as currently adopted requires the Mayor, as the Senior Elected Official in the City, to extend the state of emergency in seven day increments if the public health threat presented by COVID-19 persists; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 28-3 of the City Code further authorizes the Mayor, as the Senior Elected Official, to modify the provisions of his state of emergency declaration; and

**WHEREAS**, modifications to the current state of emergency declaration are appropriate to facilitate the continued operation of City government during this public health crisis;

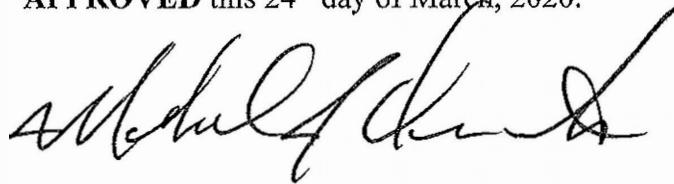
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL J. QUARANTA**, Mayor of the City of New Castle, pursuant to Chapter 28 of the City of New Castle Code, do hereby declare that the State of Emergency declaration issued on March 17, 2020 shall remain in effect beyond March 24, 2020 until further notice, with the following modifications:

1. City Council meetings will be held electronically during the state of emergency. City Administration shall make appropriate provisions for members of the public to observe and/or listen to deliberations at City Council meetings, provide public comments and examine documents presented to Council during such meetings and hearings consistent with the proclamations issued by Governor Carney.
2. To minimize the number of persons exposed to the public health risk associated with COVID-19 in the course of conducting City business, the City Administrator and City Solicitor are hereby each appointed as assistant City Treasurers and assistant City Clerks for the duration of the state of emergency in the City, and both shall be authorized, in addition to the elected City Treasurer and City Clerk, to perform any and all of the functions and official duties of the City Treasurer and City Clerk.
3. To minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, all public bathrooms and all public playground equipment, basketball courts and tennis courts in the City are

ordered closed until further order. The situation will be monitored daily and these facilities will re-open when it can be safely done. City parks will remain open for dog walking and exercise provided members of the public abide by hygiene and safe social distancing protocols as set forth by the CDC.

4. The prohibition against public or private gatherings of 10 or more people shall remain in effect until further order or the public health threat of COVID-19 has been eliminated.
5. Essential City functions will continue on schedule, including trash and recycling pickups and police patrols. Fire and EMT first responders from Good Will Fire Co. will continue to protect City residents and MSC will continue to provide water and electrical service to City properties. City leaders are monitoring the situation and conferring daily to address issues as they arise.
6. Except as modified herein, all restrictions and limitations provided for in Governor Carney's emergency declaration of March 12, 2020, as amended through the current date, are hereby incorporated by reference in this Declaration.

**APPROVED** this 24<sup>th</sup> 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