DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on large public gatherings and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants starting on March 17, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until at least May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The City of Medford, by and through Her Honor the Mayor and the Board of Health, in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, have determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of the City of Medford, and as, such additional measures must be taken at this time; and

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, Her Honor the Mayor and the Medford Board of Health announced that that a local state of emergency exists in the City of Medford; and

85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, MA 02155
781-396-5500 * www.medfordma.org
WHEREAS, Her Honor the Mayor and the Medford Board of Health have determined that additional and immediate public action is needed in order to minimize the further spread and acquisition of COVID-19, a serious public health emergency, by and among the people of the City of Medford; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with local, state, and federal guidance to date, these additional steps defined below are necessary and prudent to preserve public health and safety in the City; and

WHEREAS, to minimize the further, increased threat to public health, the City requests that all residents and business owners comply with all federal, state and local Orders at this time, including, but not limited to social distancing and crowd gathering; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, Governor Baker issued COVID-19 Order No. 21, extending and revising the provisions of COVID-19 Order No. 13, which ordered the closing of non-essential workplaces in the Commonwealth; The revised Order remains in effect until at least May 4, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, in order to lessen the spread of COVID-19 and to minimize its further impact on members of the community, it is hereby ordered, by Her Honor the Mayor and the Medford Board of Health, that:

1) All members of the public entering any essential business as defined by Governor Baker's Covid-19 Executive Orders, including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, public buildings, home improvement stores and the like must wear a cloth face covering, such as a fabric mask, scarf or bandana, over his or her nose and mouth. The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which should be left for medical professionals and first responders.

2) All members of the public entering a restaurant for the purpose of picking up food for take-out must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth.

3) All employees of all essential businesses shall wear a face covering over their mouth and nose when interacting with the public and when within six (6) feet of co-workers. Employers and employees must use previously prescribed protocols and guidelines for
personal protective equipment such as gloves and comply with social distancing guidelines.

4) Any resident or member of the general public entering or exiting a residential or commercial building complex of greater than one (1) unit must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while in common areas and communal spaces and must exercise social distancing in these spaces in accordance with CDC guidelines.

5) Essential retail establishments as defined by Governor Baker’s Covid-19 Executive Orders must limit the number of customers and staff inside the establishment at any given time so that social distancing of six feet may be maintained. All retail establishments must establish maximum occupancy loads in accordance with the “Guidance for Grocery Stores” issued by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health on April 7, 2020. See this order at: https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-grocery-stores-40-percent/download. Maximum occupancy shall be posted at each entrance to the establishment and shall be readily visible to members of the public.

6) An employee of the retailer shall be designated to ensure the maximum number of individuals inside of the store is not exceeded. Customers queued outside of the store must maintain a minimum of six feet distance.

7) Any portions of the store requiring extra staffing solely dedicated to services that are deemed nonessential pursuant to Governor Baker’s Covid-19 Executive Orders shall be closed.

8) Reusable shopping bags are prohibited. Single-use bags are permitted and shall be provided at no extra cost to customers.

This emergency order shall be effective beginning SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020 AT 12:01AM and remain in effect until notice is given through order of Her Honor the Mayor and the Medford Board of Health.

Date: 4/10/20

Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn, City of Medford