

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
FOR THE TOWN OF RICH CREEK, VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19 was detected in China, and has, since its initial detection, spread to more than 100 locations worldwide, including the United States;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern,” and on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a national public health emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, due to multiple cases of COVID-19 having been confirmed in Virginia, Governor Ralph S. Northam of the Commonwealth of Virginia, declared that a state of emergency existed in the Commonwealth of Virginia and, further, on March 13, 2020, Governor Northam ordered temporary closure of public schools throughout the Commonwealth to thwart further spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared the United States of America to be in a state of national emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a threat to public health of sufficient severity and magnitude to require a coordinated governmental response to mitigate the spread of the disease.

THEREFORE, I, William Kantsios, Mayor and member of Town Council of Rich Creek, Virginia, hereby declare that a state of emergency exists in the Town of Rich Creek, Virginia, and I invoke and declare in full force and effect in the Town of Rich Creek, Virginia, all laws and statutes of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for the protection of health and safety of the persons and property of Town of Rich Creek, Virginia.

This local emergency is declared in accordance with the “Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 2000,” Virginia Code § 44-146.13, *et seq.*

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and in an abundance of caution, public facilities owned and operated by the Town may be closed as determined prudent by the Mayor in consultation with the Town Council to avoid community spread of the virus.

The Town, further, encourages all citizens of Rich Creek to practice social distancing and personal hygiene as recommended by the Giles County Department of

Health and United States Center for Disease Control to protect against community spread and, in doing so, to contribute to the stability and function of local and regional medical facilities by avoidance of overwhelming our health care facilities.

All public officials and employees of Town of Rich Creek, Virginia are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in discharge of the duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in the execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives, state and local.

All citizens are called upon and directed to comply with emergency measures, to cooperate with the Town of Rich Creek Director of Emergency Management in the execution of emergency operational plans, and to comply with the lawful directions of properly identified public officials.

This declaration is effective March ____, 2020 at _____.

William Kantsios
Mayor