TOWN OF WINTHROP
BOARD OF HEALTH

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Bill Schmidt, BA, MPA, MAC, Chair
Dr. Astrid Weins, Vice Chair
Susan Maguire, RN, Member

April 7, 2020

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND CURFEW

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 public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Winthrop Board of Health issued an order to all vendors who hold food permits in the community to not admit new patrons for dining, only offer take-out food for sale, and not serve additional alcohol effective as of 8:00 pm on March 16, 2020.

WHEREAS, the Winthrop Board of Health, in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, has 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 Winthrop; and

WHEREAS, the Winthrop Board of Health has determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Winthrop; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Winthrop; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, Sections 95 to 105 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Winthrop Board of Health recommends that a state of public health emergency be declared in the Town of Winthrop, and advises that a curfew be established for all non-essential workers/residents, visitors, and businesses in the Town of Winthrop between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Winthrop Board of Health hereby declare that as of 10:00 pm on April 8, 2020, a state of public health emergency exists in the Town of Winthrop. This declaration of a public health emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.

ENFORCEMENT: All reasonable efforts will be made to secure voluntary compliance with this Declaration. The Winthrop Board of Health will seek the assistance of other Town of Winthrop agencies, including the Police Department, in encouraging compliance with the Declaration and curfew.

Bill Schmidt, Chair _____

Astrid Weins, Vice Chair _____

Susan Maguire, Member _____