



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

EMERGENCY ORDER THAT WAR MEMORIAL, FIELD HOUSE AND GARAGE BE USED FOR A TEMPORARY EMERGENCY SHELTER

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 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 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; 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 issued an emergency Order (the “March 15, 2020 Order”) 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 19, 2020, the City Manager and the Commissioner of Public Health issued a declaration that a state of emergency exists in the City as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its threat to the health, safety, and welfare of people in the City; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Order (the “March 23, 2020 Executive Order”) limiting gatherings of more than ten people in the Commonwealth and encouraging business, other than those that provide COVID-19 essential services as defined in the March 23, 2020 Executive Order, to close their brick and mortar operations and operate only by remote means; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order that all grades K through 12 schools in the Commonwealth remain closed until May 4, 2020, thereby extending the March 15, 2020 Order that all schools in the Commonwealth close from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order extending the March 23, 2020 Executive Order to close brick and mortar operations and operate only by remote means until May 4, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health and the Cambridge City Manager, 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 Cambridge; and

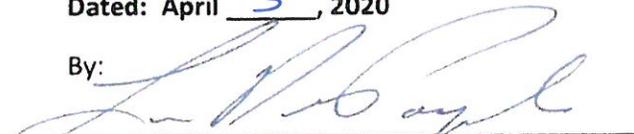
WHEREAS, the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health and the Cambridge City Manager have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the homeless population of the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS, St. 1950, c. 639 (the "Massachusetts Civil Defense Act" or the "Act") directs the City Manager, in carrying out the provisions of the Act, to utilize the services, equipment, supplies, and facilities of existing departments, offices, and agencies of the City to the maximum extent practicable and further directs that the officers and personnel of all such departments, offices, and agencies of the City cooperate with and extend such services to the City Manager upon request;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers and duties vested in the City Manager of the City of Cambridge under the provisions of St. 1950, c. 639, the City Manager, with the concurrence of the Commissioner of Public Health, hereby orders that the War Memorial Recreation Center, the Field House, and the garage structures located at and adjacent to the campus of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School property, may, as of the date of this Order and until further notice is provided, be used as directed by the City Manager on a temporary emergency basis as a shelter for the purpose of housing homeless individuals and others in the City due to the COVID-19 pandemic Public Health Emergency or for any other purpose of protecting the public health during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Dated: April 3, 2020

By:



Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager



Assaad J. Sayah, MD, Commissioner of Public Health