



Resolution **Winooski COVID-19 Response**

Whereas, on March 7, 2020, the first case of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 was confirmed in the State of Vermont and the second on March 11; and

Whereas, in early March, the governor activated the State Emergency Operations Center; and

Whereas, on March 11, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 was considered a pandemic; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, Governor Phil Scott declared a State of Emergency in Vermont because of the virus and issued an Executive Order under 20 V.S.A. Chapter 1, prohibiting, among other steps, social gatherings of more than 250 people; and

Whereas, since that time, the Governor has issued additional addenda and directives related to that Executive Order, including limiting gatherings to 10 people; issuing a Stay Home, Stay Safe Order; and most recently closing schools for in-person instruction through the rest of the school year; and

Whereas, the emergency measures in place have resulted in the closing of all non-essential business operations, mass layoffs of workers, workers staying home to care for children not attending school, and other impacts resulting in lost income for many residents; and

Whereas, it is not known how long emergency measures will remain in place; and

Whereas; the residents and small businesses that make our community vibrant are short on cashflow to keep paying bills and expenses; and

Whereas, we must support the long-term vibrancy of our community by protecting our residents, businesses, and essential City services; and

Whereas, during a public health crisis, we must protect the public health by ensuring access to safe housing and basic needs such as food, water and heat; and

Whereas, the City of Winooski lacks the authority to change legislation that would provide meaningful relief to our community; and

Whereas, on March 27, 2020 the Federal Government signed into law a stimulus package allocating relief funds to the State of Vermont;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the City Council urges the State of Vermont to take measures including additional Executive Order addenda, the passing of legislation, and other efforts to provide meaningful relief that

- Prohibits the eviction of residential and commercial tenants;
- Prohibits foreclosure on properties residential and commercial;
- Prohibits the non-renewal of leases as a way to circumvent an eviction moratorium;
- Prohibits the suspension of healthcare coverage;
- Prohibits the suspension of any utility including municipal and private services;
- Suspends interest accrual on late payment of property taxes;
- Holds harmless municipal budgets for late payment of property and education tax when delaying payments to provide relief to local taxpayers;
- Addresses lost revenue in the State Education Fund while holding municipal budgets harmless;
- Leverages federal relief funds to reimburse municipal budgets for costs incurred during COVID-19 response
- Extends any such actions not less than 60 days beyond the end of the period of emergency to allow residents and businesses time to recover their financial footing

Affirmative Vote:

Mayor

Councilor

Councilor

Councilor

Councilor

Adopted

City of Winooski
Vermont's Opportunity City

27 West Allen Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404
802 655 6410
winooski.vt.gov

Rejected

Attest (City Clerk)

Approved Date