**EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION: TO ALL RESIDENTS AND PERSONS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD**

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to the Coronavirus **(COVID-19)**; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization **(WHO)** formally declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 within New Jersey, and specifically within the Township of Bloomfield, constitutes an imminent public health hazard that threatens and presently endangers the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey at a rate comparable to the rate of spread in other affected areas, would greatly strain the resources and capabilities of county and municipal governments, including public health agencies, which provide essential services for containing and mitigating the spread of contagious diseases, such as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of New Jersey declared the concurrent invocation of both a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency as contemplated by N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq., which invoked the authority and powers contemplated by N.J.S.A. 26:13-3, the Emergency Health Powers Act, and remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared COVID-19 a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced statewide restrictions, including the closure of all schools, closure of non-essential retail, recreational and entertainment businesses after 8pm, closure of all bars and restaurants for eat-in services; and banning gatherings of 50 persons or more; and

WHEREAS, since the declaration of the State of Emergency, and the declaration of a national emergency, the number of cases in New Jersey has surpassed 260, both travel-related cases and community contact transmission of COVID-19, with 11 confirmed cases in Essex County, including at least 2 in the Township of Bloomfield; and

WHEREAS, the Township is working with federal, state and local officials and authorities on a daily basis on prevention and mitigation activities that include providing critical information to the public about COVID-19 to provide facts and avoid unnecessary fear, training emergency responders and health professionals about the disease and investigating suspected, presumptive and confirmed cases; and

WHEREAS, the Township may be required to acquire goods and services that may not be currently available in the Township’s product inventory or from vendors with whom the Township currently has a contractual relationship in order to protect and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of Township residents and visitors, and successfully combat the impact of the virus.

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency, it is necessary to use every means at our disposal to implement additional measures, including but not limited to those directed at places of public gathering, in order to flatten the curve of the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with and at the recommendation of Township of Bloomfield Director of Health and Welfare Karen Lore and Director of Public Safety Samuel DeMaio.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Michael J. Venezia, as Mayor of the Township of Bloomfield, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1) The above recitals are incorporated herein as if more fully set forth at length.

2) A health emergency hereby exists within the Township of Bloomfield regarding COVID 19.

3) All necessary Township Departments are authorized to take appropriate action to assist in containing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from this COVID-19 outbreak.

4) All protocols necessary and required for opening a Bloomfield Office of Emergency Management **(OEM)** shall be immediately instituted.

5) All Township employees shall follow all local, County, State and Federal health recommendations, in addition to Centers for Disease Control recommendations including but not limited to Handwashing, Sanitizing and Basic Infection Control Procedures.

6) There is an immediate ban on all Township business related travel to any states that have

reported COVID 19 cases. Similar travel restrictions are strongly recommended for all local travel.

7) Township residents who are seniors, particularly those with underlying health conditions, are strongly encouraged to avoid large crowds and large gatherings while COVID-19 remains a threat.

8) To combat COVID-19, the Township shall be permitted whenever necessary to procure the necessary goods or services, which are not available under contracts currently in existence with the Township, without complying with the New Jersey Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 et. seq.); and

10) All Township of Bloomfield Parking Restrictions are lifted until such time as it is determined by me that an emergency no longer exits.

11) This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is determined by me that an emergency no longer exists.

12) This Executive Order may be supplemented or amended as the COVID-19 health emergency

continues in order to effectuate its purpose and terms set forth herein.

14) A copy of this Executive Order shall be immediately transmitted to the Council of the Township of Bloomfield.