

For Immediate Release – March 14, 2020

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City declares state of emergency following Federal & Va. declarations

Decision will allow Harrisonburg to address funding, reimbursements if needed regarding COVID-19

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Following decisions by President Trump and Governor Northam this week to declare a national and state of emergency, respectively, regarding COVID-19, the City of Harrisonburg has officially declared a state of emergency as of Saturday, March 14, 2020.

The declaration, signed into effect by Harrisonburg City Manager Eric D. Campbell, will allow the City to pursue federal reimbursements, if needed, made available by the national designation declared on Friday. It also will allow the City to allocate resources as needed in the response to COVID-19. There was one presumptive positive test for the virus in Harrisonburg as of Saturday morning.

The national declaration makes emergency funding available to state and local governments, and President Trump has said up to \$50 billion may be available. The City's state of emergency will be ratified by the Harrisonburg City Council at their next meeting on March 24.

This declaration does not change any City protocols as it pertains to COVID-19. At this time, residents should still follow Virginia Department of Health guidelines on prevention and follow the City's website and social media pages for updates.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 54,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at <u>www.HarrisonburgVA.gov</u>.



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