

**A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR
OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
RECOMMENDING COMMUNITY AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
IMPLEMENT SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICES**

Pursuant to the City of Scranton Home Rule Charter and executive powers vested in the Mayor, in order to prescribe order in the City of Scranton, I, Paige G. Cognetti, Mayor of the City of Scranton, do hereby **PROCLAIM AND DECLARE** that, due to the **STATE OF EMERGENCY** issued March 15, 2020 resulting from the public health emergency regarding the spread of the Coronavirus [COVID-19], recommendations shall be issued for safe worship and community service practices during the COVID-19 Declared State of Emergency to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of Scranton.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has issued guidance for community and faith-based organizations to implement mitigation strategies for the spread of coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, such facilities include congregations and places of worship, voluntary social service agencies, and other nonprofit and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the City of Scranton and surrounding communities continue to frequent such establishments for purposes of obtaining services; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control has found that the best way to prevent the disease is to avoid exposure, and that the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, primarily between people who are in close contact with one another (approximately six (6) feet); and

WHEREAS, these recommendations should be adopted and enforced by all retail facilities allowed to continue operations to further promote social distancing and safe practices to mitigate the spread of coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, in the event that such recommendations are not adopted and/or enforced by grocers and retailers, additional measures mandating the same may become necessary and shall be

adopted to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the residents of the City of Scranton and those essential employees required to work at such facilities.

NOW THEREFORE, it is recommended and strongly encouraged that as of 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, any entity that provides community and/or faith-based services adopt and enforce the following:

A. To promote social distancing by temporarily modifying and suspending specific religious rites, rituals, and services so as to prevent physical contact.

B. To adhere to CDC guidance that events and gatherings of ten (10) or more people be cancelled or postponed, or that such events be held in alternative formats other than in-person, such as online or at outdoor facilities where social distancing can be practiced.

AND FURTHERMORE, it is recommended and strongly encouraged that community and faith-based organizations allowing public access:

- increase cleaning and sanitizing of high contact areas,
- educate employees, volunteers, and participants on best hygiene practices including washing hands often with soap and water or sanitizing stations,
- encourage use of remote services whenever available,
- remind employees, volunteers, and participants that the Governor has recommended all persons wear masks when in public, and
- prohibit sick employees, volunteers, and participants from attending in-person events and services.

DONE UNDER MY HAND in the CITY OF SCRANTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, this 6TH Day of April, 2020.

Paige G. Cognetti

Paige G. Cognetti
Mayor, City of Scranton