

LUZERNE COUNTY

ORDINANCE 2020-_____

**AN ORDINANCE OF LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTING EMERGENCY DECLARATION
OF THE COUNTY MANAGER FOR THE COUNTY OF LUZERNE, PENNSYLVANIA**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (now known as "SARS CoV-2") emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread throughout the world, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, SARS CoV-2 is known to have the potential to cause Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in humans; and WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has declared COVID-19 a "public health emergency of international concern," and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 6, 2020 due to COVID-19 under the authority of 35 Pa.C.S. §§ 7101, et seq. that authorized the suspension of certain procedures and formalities prescribed by law and urged counties to "act as necessary to meet the current exigencies;" and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in Luzerne County; and

WHEREAS, Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501) authorizes Luzerne County to declare a disaster emergency "upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent;"

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter Section 4.07(B)(6), the Luzerne County Manager declared a state of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED: We, Luzerne County Council supports the decision of the County Manager to declare a state of emergency for Luzerne County.

ADOPTED at a meeting on March 19, 2020.

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Tim McGinley, Chair

Attest: _____
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

By: _____
Chris Perry, Vice-Chair