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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **West Hartford Joins Regional Municipalities In Prohibiting Gatherings Of More Than Ten People**

WEST HARTFORD, CONN (March 19, 2020) – Today Town Manager Matt Hart announced that pursuant to Mayor Shari Cantor’s recent Emergency Declaration he is issuing an Executive Order to prohibit social and recreational gatherings of more than ten people. The social and recreational activities include, but are not limited to: community, civic, and sporting events; plays or live performances; and religious, spiritual, or worship gatherings. Several other municipalities in the region have issued similar orders. The Town Manager’s order will take effect March 20, 2020 and will be enforced by the West Hartford Police Department.

Earlier this week, the Centers for Disease Control issued guidance that all events of ten or more people should be cancelled. The emergency order runs through April 30, 2020, but may be modified, extended, or terminated at any time.

Mayor Shari Cantor stated: “Each day the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing rapidly in Connecticut and it is undoubtedly here in West Hartford. This executive order is a life-saving measure as we have to take every precaution available to us to slow the spread of this deadly disease. I call upon all members of the West Hartford community to do everything in their power to assist us in this effort.”

Town Manager Matt Hart stated: “Consistent with CDC guidance, I am issuing this emergency order to emphasize that everyone must minimize contact with others if we are going to be successful in slowing down the spread of COVID-19. We will use this emergency order to direct people to stop congregating in groups of more than ten, as we do everything possible to get the word out about the importance of social distancing. We realize that this a significant step to take but believe that it is fully warranted given the magnitude of the public health crisis that we are facing.”

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Mayor Shari Cantor, mayor@westhartfordct.gov, (860) 416-9611

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-1**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a global pandemic of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”); and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic has resulted in the rapid spread of infections throughout the State of Connecticut; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020 the Governor declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State pursuant to sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the General Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency pursuant to section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, in accordance with section 8 of chapter III of the Town Charter, the Mayor of West Hartford declared that a state of emergency exists in the Town of West Hartford as a result of the global pandemic of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Town Charter, when the Mayor has declared a state of emergency to exist, the Town Manager is authorized to impose and lift curfews, summon, marshal, deputize or otherwise employ other persons, or do whatever he may deem necessary for the purpose of meeting the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, section 28-8a of the General Statutes authorizes the chief executive officer of a municipality in which a major disaster or emergency occurs, or his or her designee, to take such action as he deems necessary to mitigate the major disaster or emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Manager must take action for the purpose of mitigating the adverse effects of the emergency situation on the residents of West Hartford; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) COVID-19 is spread person-to-person, and the CDC has recommended cancelling gatherings of ten (10) or more people; and

**WHEREAS**, social distancing and limitations on gatherings are among the best practices and prescribed measures for slowing the spread of COVID-19.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT BEING NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEETING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCY, I, Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager of the Town of West Hartford, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Town Charter and state and federal law, do hereby ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. Gatherings of more than ten (10) people for social and recreational activities, including but not limited to, community, civic, leisure, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; plays or live performances; conventions; and similar activities, as well as religious, spiritual or worship gatherings of such size, are prohibited in the Town of West Hartford.
2. This order shall be effective on Friday, March 20, 2020 at 12:01 AM through 11:59 PM on April 30, 2020, unless earlier modified, extended, or terminated.
3. This order shall be made available to the public for inspection and review in the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of West Hartford, shall be conveyed to the Town Council, shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of West Hartford, and shall be posted on the Town of West Hartford website, but the failure to take any step described in this section shall not impair the validity of this order.

Dated at West Hartford, this 19th day of March in the year 2020.



Matthew W. Hart  
Town Manager