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2020 JUL 17 AM 9:48

TOWN of NORTH READING

Massachusetts

TOWN CLERK
NORTH READING, MA

Moderator

John J. Murphy

***NORTH READING TOWN MODERATOR
NOTICE OF INTENT TO DECLARE FOURTH RECESS AND CONTINUANCE
OF
MAY 11, 2020 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AND CHANGE OF VENUE***

This Notice of Intent to Declare Recess and Continue the North Reading Special Town Meeting is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Moderator by the provisions of G.L. c. 39, §10A. I hereby provide notice to the Town of North Reading that I have determined that it is in the public's interest, due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, including the immediate threat to the health and safety of persons and property, to consider the fourth recess and continuance of the May 11, 2020 Special Town Meeting, which I initially continued until June 8, 2020; then subsequently continued to June 29, 2020; and then subsequently continued again to July 27, 2020. For the same public health and safety reasons, as well as the anticipation of a large attendance, I am also hereby providing notice of a change in venue to the Arthur Kenney Turf Field at 189 Park Street (Middle/High School property).

I issue this Notice of Intent after careful and considerable deliberation about the implications of the rapid spread of the disease, present lack of containment, and risk to the most vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings, and in the interest of providing necessary advance notice to all individuals participating in the Town Meeting process of this possible recess and continuance. Various professional sports leagues, universities, school districts, cultural institutions and events, and more, have been cancelled, closed, or temporarily suspended normal operations. Similarly, various public and private entities have significantly restricted operations in response to the continued spread of the virus. Based upon the orders and/or recommendations from the Governor, among others, that large gatherings be avoided, and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, I consulted with public safety officials, the Director of Public Safety, the Director of Public Health, the Board of Health, and members of the Select Board and reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A significant consideration in this decision includes the important role of Town Meeting as the legislative body of the Town, my obligation to ensure that all who wish to participate are able, particularly, vulnerable members of our community, and the needs of all participants to be aware of these evolving circumstances.

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Town of North Reading, MA
Moderator's 4th Declaration

2020 JUL 17 AM 9:48

May 11, 2020 Special Town Meeting
Page 2

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NORTH READING, MA

Being respectful of the health, safety and wellbeing of all of the voters of the Town, and acknowledging the authority vested in the Town Moderator pursuant to G.L. c.39, §10A, I have determined in accord with G.L. c.39, §10A that the rapidly evolving situation involving Covid-19, including the immediate threat to the health and safety of persons and property, will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the July 27, 2020 continued Special Town Meeting and that they will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meeting. A delay at this time will avoid forcing voters to choose between participating in the Town Meeting and managing their health in a manner most appropriate for them.

To provide as much advance notice as possible, and in order to allow the Town the greatest period of time to evaluate the situation, this formal fourth Declaration, which is being issued in accordance with Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 "An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19," will be deemed to be issued and take effect on July 27, 2020, the scheduled date of the continued Special Town Meeting. Since Town Meeting can only be continued for up to thirty (30) days at a time, the Special Town Meeting will be rescheduled for August 8, 2020 at 9:00 AM to be held outdoors at the Arthur Kenney Turf Field at 189 Park Street (Middle/High School property).

Additionally, through this Declaration, all notice and mailing requirements set forth in Section 2-4-3 and Section 2-4-4 of the Town Charter will be continued and modified to be applicable to the new date of the Special Town Meeting.

Please contact the Town Administrator's office with any further questions at (978) 664-6010.



John J. Murphy, Town Moderator

July 16, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.