Executive Order of March 14, 2020

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Connecticut has issued a Declaration Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency as a result of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and confirmed community spread in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, under Connecticut Statute 28-8a, the Chief Executive Officer of a municipality has the power and duty to “take such actions as he deems necessary to mitigate the major disaster or emergency . . .”; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily through airborne droplets and transmission through shared objects and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 appears to be greater for older individuals and those with compromised immune systems or chronic health conditions, and the virus can be transmitted between individuals without noticeable symptoms;

Now, therefore I, Lauren S. Gister, Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Chester, do hereby order and direct:

1. That all municipal buildings and facilities shall prohibit the use of such facilities for non-governmental activities and events effective immediately.
2. That all municipal boards and commissions shall suspend their meetings unless there is urgent business before the board, in which case they may meet via telephone conference or video conference only, effective immediately. Such meetings held by remote means will continue to meet quorum and FOI conditions presently in effect through state statute and the requirements of Governor Lamont’s Executive Order of March 14, 2020.
3. That the Chester Town Hall and Chester Library will be closed to the general public except by appointment for the protection of town employees. Town business will continue to be conducted by town employees and the public is instructed to communicate their needs by phone, mail or email for such assistance as may be available.

The restrictions contained in this Executive Order shall remain in effect until midnight, April 16, 2020 unless modified or superseded by a future Executive Order.

Dated at Chester, Connecticut this 14th day of March, 2020.

Lauren S. Gister
First Selectman, Town of Chester
WHEREAS, the First Selectman of the Town of Chester does find:

That, due to a national and global health crisis caused by the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, which has disrupted social activity, medical response, government and business operations throughout the State and the Town of Chester; and

That, the spread of this virus has caused a condition of extreme peril to the life and health of Chester residents, resulting in the cancellation of most local events, worship services and the closing of public spaces, government offices and private businesses; and

That these conditions have resulted in the Declaration of a National Emergency and the Governor's Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby declared that a State of Emergency now exists throughout the Town of Chester, and

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that, during the existence of this State of Emergency, the First Selectman shall exercise those powers, functions and duties prescribed by State Law, and all applicable ordinances, resolutions, special acts and Town Emergency Operations Plans in order to minimize the effects of said emergency.

March 14, 2020 at 10 a.m.

[Signature]
Lauren S. Gister
First Selectman

Attest: [Signature]
Maya C. Gold