



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**DECLARATION OF FISCAL EMERGENCY  
CITY OF CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
APRIL 13, 2020**

***WHEREAS, in 1995, the Secretary of Community and Economic Development determined that the City of Chester had met the criteria necessary to issue a Determination of Municipal Financial Distress pursuant to the provisions of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, 53 P.S. § 11701.101 et seq. (“Act 47”);***

***WHEREAS, the City of Chester adopted an initial Recovery Plan in 1996 but due to difficult economic conditions was forced to adopt subsequent Recovery Plan amendments in 2006, 2013, and 2016;***

***WHEREAS, the City of Chester’s adopted an Exit Plan under Act 47 on October 10, 2018;***

***WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (now known as “COVID-19”) began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread to over 180 countries, including the United States;***

***WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 7301(c) of the Emergency Services Management Code, 35 Pa.C.S. § 7101, et seq., I proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth;***

***WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, I ordered all individuals to stay at home and closed non-life sustaining businesses in several counties, including Delaware County in which the City of Chester is located, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth;***

***WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, I extended the stay at home order to the entire Commonwealth through April 30, 2020;***

***WHEREAS, the continuing spread of COVID-19 has adversely affected local government revenues, including those of the City of Chester;***

***WHEREAS, the ongoing fiscal distress of the City of Chester jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and threatens the fiscal stability of neighboring communities; and***

***WHEREAS, the City of Chester is projected to be insolvent within 180 days; and***

***WHEREAS, the City of Chester is subject to various pending legal actions involving significant municipal assets, all of which jeopardize the provision of vital and necessary services to its citizens and, therefore, is unable to ensure the continued provisions of such services.***

***NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 602(a)(1)(i) & (ii) of the Act of July 10, 1987 (P.L. 246, No. 47), as amended, 53 P.S. § 11701.101 et seq. (“Act 47 as amended”), I hereby determine that a fiscal emergency exists in the City of Chester.***

***FURTHER, in accordance with Section 602(b)(1) of Act 47 as amended, and contemporaneously with this Proclamation, I hereby adopt and issue, and incorporate herein by reference, the Concise Statement of Facts supporting the determination of the existence of a fiscal emergency in the City of Chester.***

***FURTHER, in accordance with Section 602(b)(1) of Act 47, I hereby direct the Secretary of Community and Economic Development forthwith to serve written notice of this Declaration, along with the Concise Statement of Facts, upon the governing body of the City of Chester and its Chief Executive Officer.***

***FURTHER, in accordance with Section 602(b)(2) of Act 47, I hereby direct the Secretary of Community and Economic Development, within ten (10) days of this Declaration, to develop an Emergency Action Plan as described by Sections 602(c) and 603 of Act 47 as amended to ensure that vital and necessary services are maintained within the City of Chester during the state of fiscal emergency.***

***FURTHER, I hereby delegate the authority conferred upon me as, Governor pursuant to the provisions of Section 604 of Act 47, as amended to the Secretary of Community and Economic Development, and I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary or his designee to carry out any emergency powers and issue any Orders otherwise reserved for the Governor pursuant to the aforesaid Section 604.***



***GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the city of Harrisburg, on this thirteenth day of April two thousand twenty, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred and forty-fourth.***

*Tom Wolf*  
**TOM WOLF**  
Governor