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January 12, 2022

**DECLARATION OF A DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR THE BOROUGH OF
ARCHBALD, COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA, PENNSYLVANIA**

WHEREAS, it has been two years since the discovery of the SARS CoV-2 virus that caused the disease COVID-19. Since then, the virus has mutated and caused different variants; and

WHEREAS, variants that are more contagious, cause more severe symptoms, or decrease the effectiveness of existing health measures such as treatment or vaccination, are called variants of concern. There are currently five variants of concern which include the Delta variant and the Omicron variant.; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") declared that the Omicron variant, first discovered in South Africa on November 9, 2021, and designated as a variant of concern on November 26, 2021 is now the dominant variant in the United States comprising nearly three quarters of all new COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2021, the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared that the Omicron variant is spreading faster than any other variant including the Delta variant; and

WHEREAS, preliminary international research indicates that the Omicron variant decreases the effectiveness of certain vaccines and treatments; and

WHEREAS, given the characteristics of the Omicron variant along with the reported statewide and local hospital capacity issues, healthcare systems may become quickly overwhelmed; and

WHEREAS, masking, social distancing, testing, and vaccinations, especially boosters, are critical to containing the spread of COVID-19.

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 Archbald Borough, Lackawanna County; and

WHEREAS, Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Act, 35 PA CSA § 7501, authorizes the Borough of Archbald to declare a disaster emergency "upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the powers conferred upon the Mayor of the Borough of Archbald by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Act, 35 PA CSA § 7501, Section 10A06(b) of the Pennsylvania Borough Code, 8 Pa.C.S Section10A06(b) authorizes the Mayor of the Borough of Archbald to issue a written proclamation declaring a state of emergency for a period not to exceed seven (7) days.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Act, 35 PA CSA § 7501, as well as by Section 10A06(b) of the Pennsylvania Borough Code, 8 Pa.C.S Section10A06(b), I, Shirley Barrett, the undersigned Mayor of the Borough of Archbald, do hereby declare the existence of an emergency in the Borough of Archbald, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania due to COVID-19.

FURTHER, as Mayor of the Borough of Archbald, I direct the Archbald Borough Manager to work with the Lackawanna County Emergency Management Director and Borough Emergency Management Director to coordinate the Borough of Archbald's activities of emergency response, to work with all state and federal authorities, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

FURTHER, as Mayor of the Borough of Archbald, I hereby create a Leadership Council to advise and assist the Archbald Borough Manager, the Lackawanna County Emergency Services Director and Borough Emergency Management Director in response to COVID-19 that shall consist of each member of the Archbald Borough Council, the Archbald Borough Manager, the Lackawanna County Emergency Services Director, Borough Emergency Management Director, the Archbald Borough Solicitor, and any and all additional members as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Archbald Borough Council. This Leadership Council is authorized to meet as needed in response to COVID-19 without the need to formally advertise times and places of meetings due to the exigent and evolving circumstances of this disaster, although, as time permits, every effort will be made to list the times and places of such meetings in advance on the Borough of Archbald website.

FURTHER, as Mayor of the Borough of Archbald, pursuant to 35 Pa C.S. §7501(d), and in light of the exigencies involved with this disaster emergency, I authorize the temporary suspension of all formal requirements, including all time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

FURTHER, all non-essential hearings and meetings, including for boards, Council, committees and authorities for purposes of official Borough of Archbald business shall be cancelled during the period of this emergency declaration. For some meetings and hearings, arrangements for remote accommodations may be made and made available to attendees if possible and if appropriate.

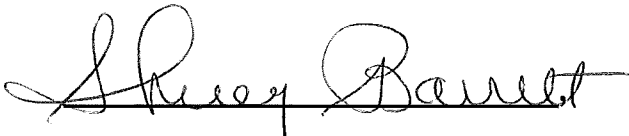
FURTHER, while all Borough of Archbald buildings shall remain open to the public for essential business, all members of the public are requested, and urged, to refrain from accessing them unless absolutely necessary.

FURTHER, all Borough of Archbald residents, businesses, organizations and visitors are urged to abide during the period of the Emergency Declaration by the recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control, as well as guidance issued by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and to refrain from all unnecessary travel, gatherings, and business so as to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 and, in turn, this public health emergency.

AND FURTHERMORE, this Declaration shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, or until rescinded or extended as provided for by law.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

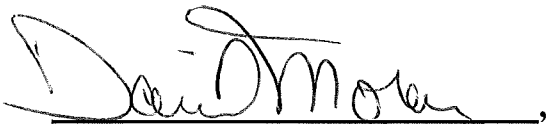
Authorized this 12th, day of January, 2022.



SHIRLEY BARRETT, MAYOR,

BOROUGH OF ARCHBALD

ATTEST:



DAVID MORAN, PRESIDENT,

ARCHBALD COUNCIL



MICHELLE BIANCHI, SECRETARY,

ARCHBALD COUNCIL