

**COUNTY OF OSWEGO
EMERGENCY ORDER 2021-23
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF OSWEGO) ss.:

I, **JAMES S. WEATHERUP**, as Chairman of the Legislature and Chief Executive of the County of Oswego, in accordance with a declaration of a State of Emergency issued by me on Sunday, March 15, 2020, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently renewed till present, and pursuant to the authority vested in me under New York State Executive Law § 24, **DO HEREBY TEMPORARILY MODIFY OR SUSPEND** the following County of Oswego local laws, rules, regulations, policies and/or agreements for the duration of this Emergency Order and any renewal(s) thereof:

- The Oswego County Procurement Policy be and is hereby temporarily **SUSPENDED** insofar as it requires the Health Department, Infrastructure & Facilities Department, Sheriff's Office, E-911, Emergency Management Office, Fire Coordinator's Office and Department of Social Services to utilize Onondaga County Purchasing if procurement can be handled locally on a more expedited basis **AND** insofar as it requires any county department to obtain bids or quotes for COVID-19 related PPE equipment, supplies, and materials and the like.

- The Oswego County Procurement Policy is hereby temporarily **SUSPENDED** insofar as it requires funds to be first available and encumbered regarding purchases or contracts let concerning COVID-19 response, prevention and treatment by the Department of Health, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Office and the Department of Social Services provided that the purchases and/or contracts are first approved by both the County Administrator and Chair of the Legislature.

- The following rules of the Oswego County Rules of the Legislature be and are hereby temporarily **SUSPENDED: Rule 2** regarding dates and times for county legislative meetings and required advance notice time-frames for calling special meetings of the legislature; however notice to the press and public shall be given as far in advance as practicable and all meetings shall comply with Open Meetings Law modified by Executive Order 202.72 concerning virtual meetings.

- All contractual provisions concerning advance notice for shift changes under various collective bargaining agreements to which the county is a party be and are hereby temporarily **MODIFIED** to forty-eight (48) hours advance notice, should a change be necessary, to permit the county and its essential employees to be more responsive and agile in continuing governmental operations responding to the needs of the public during this state of emergency.

- The Oswego County Automobile Policy be and is hereby **MODIFIED** concerning the assignment of take-home vehicles. A department head with the approval of the County Administrator may assign a take-home vehicle to essential employees during the State of Emergency without prior legislative approval. All other aspects of the policy remain in full force and effect.

AND, I DO HEREBY FIND AND ORDER THE FOLLOWING:

- **ORDERED**, that I find and determine that the COVID-19 pandemic is a “public disaster” as that term is defined by County of Oswego Local Law 2 of 1978 so as to allow the designation of “emergency interim successors” for county offices and departments under said law should same become necessary.

- **ORDERED**, that any “work from home” policy, or amendments thereto, issued during the county state of emergency by the County Administrator and Director of Human Resources shall control over all other county policies and contractual language inconsistent with same and may issue without standing committee or legislative approval to ensure the county workforce remains accountable to the public.

- **ORDERED**, that the Oswego County Local Rules for the Civil Service be and are hereby **SUSPENDED** to the extent deemed necessary by the Director of Human Resources to expedite the hiring, transfer and/or reinstatement of persons to vacant positions within the Department of Health, Sheriff’s Office, E-911 and the Department of Social Services.

- **ORDERED**, that the Director of Public Health shall have the authority to enter into leases and agreements for space, or other contracts, without prior legislative approval, regarding COVID-19 response, including agreements with hotels, colleges or other suitable locations for isolation or quarantine should same be necessary.

- Ordered that upon the Resolution of the Director of Human Resources, Memorandum of Understanding may be executed to facilitate staffing necessary to meet demands of the Health Department and its bargaining units on a temporary basis during the State of Emergency only regarding on-call premium eligibility.

I further find and determine the COVID-19 pandemic is an urgent, imminent or impending threat qualifying as a “disaster” as that term is defined under New York State Executive Law §20(2) and that the public health and safety of the citizens of the County of Oswego is imperiled thereby and that this emergency order is necessary and proper for the continuation of governmental operations and the provision of essential governmental services by

the County of Oswego. This order reinstates, in part, terms that were previously under an emergency order earlier in the year due to the rising COVID-19 positive cases in the county.

This order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until expired or rescinded by me as the Chief Executive of the County of Oswego. This order may also be renewed in five (5) day increments.

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Failure to obey this order is a criminal offense, punishable by law under New York State Executive Law §24(5).

I continue to direct that all officers, departments and agencies of the County of Oswego take whatever steps necessary to protect life and property, public infrastructure and provide whatever emergency assistance deemed necessary.

Signed this 26th day of March, 2021 in the County of Oswego, New York.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Hon. James S. Weatherup, Chairman
Oswego County Legislature

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