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STEUART PITTMAN
County Executive

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 30

PROHIBITING TERMINATION OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL UTILITY SERVICE

WHEREAS, a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed by Lawrence J. Hogan, the Governor of the State of Maryland, on March 5, 2020, and renewed on March 17, 2020, April 10, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 3, 2020, July 1, 2020, and August 10, 2020, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State, and the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exists;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, County Executive Steuart Pittman issued Executive Order No. 16 proclaiming a civil emergency in Anne Arundel County due to the rapid onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which Executive Order was extended by the County Council on March 20, 2020, to continue for the duration of the Governor's state of emergency proclamation;

WHEREAS, the effects of COVID-19 require that local officials be vigilant in advising the residents of measures they can take to protect health, safety, and welfare;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to pose serious health risk for the citizens of Anne Arundel County and has resulted in loss of work and loss or reduction of income for many residents of Anne Arundel County, which impacts their ability to pay for residential utility services such as water and wastewater service provided by the County;

WHEREAS, the termination of residential utility services as a result of COVID-19 impacts would have serious public health, welfare and safety consequences, particularly on elderly residents and those who are immunosuppressed or otherwise have high-risk medical conditions;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Governor Hogan issued an unnumbered Executive Order prohibiting termination of residential utility services and suspending late fees, which was renewed on April 29, May 29, June 29, and July 31, 2020, but which expired on September 1, 2020;

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2020, the Maryland Public Service Commission issued an Order prohibiting all public service utilities regulated by the Commission from terminating residential utility service for nonpayment through November 15, 2020, and encouraging local government utility service agencies not regulated by the Commission to take the same action;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to protect public health, welfare, and safety to suspend the effect of ordinances regarding termination of residential services such as water and wastewater service, and to suspend late fees or other charges for nonpayment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steuart Pittman, County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Charter and laws of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and §§ 1-6-101 *et. seq.* and § 13-5-810(a) of the Anne Arundel County Code, and to save lives, limit the impact of the COVID-19 virus, and prevent further exposure to the COVID-19 virus within Anne Arundel County and the State of Maryland, do hereby proclaim and order on this 4th day of September, 2020:

1. Residential utility service for County water or wastewater service in Anne Arundel County shall not be terminated for nonpayment, and shall remain in service, through November 15, 2020.
2. All late fees or other charges legally allowed to be imposed for late payment are hereby suspended and may not be charged or accrued on any payment through November 15, 2020. Late fees already accrued prior March 16, 2020 are not affected by this suspension and shall be due upon payment.
3. This Executive Order shall take effect as of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2020, and shall continue until terminated by subsequent Executive Order or until the local proclamation of emergency expires or is terminated.
4. The Public Information Officer shall immediately disseminate notice of this Executive Order to the appropriate news media and to the general public.

This Executive Order shall be archived at the Office of Law.



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Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Gregory J. Swain
County Attorney