

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

Pursuant to the powers granted to me by virtue of Article VI of the Rockville City Charter and Chapter 2, Article II, Division 3 of the Rockville City Code, and pursuant to an Executive Order issued by the Governor of the State of Maryland on March 12, 2020, “Extending Certain Licenses, Permits, Registrations and Other Governmental Authorizations and Authorizing Suspension of Legal Time Requirements”, I find that:

1. The suspension of the deadlines for responding to requests for public records under the Maryland Public Information Act (“Act”), Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Art., Title 4, will not endanger the public health, welfare or safety.
2. Due to the closing of City facilities, the lack of presence of City staff at those facilities and the inability of City staff to access documents and records subject to Public Information requests, the City cannot comply with the above Public Information Act timelines which the City administers until after the expiration of the state of emergency declared in the Governor’s Order.
3. The temporary suspension of those timelines that the City administers until after the termination of the state of emergency and rescission of the catastrophic health emergency will not deprive any person of their due process rights.

Therefore, notification having been made to the Governor at least 24 hours prior to the effective date hereof, I direct:

1. The deadlines imposed by Sections 4-202, 4-203 and 4-358 of the Act, shall be and hereby are suspended until the conclusion of the present State of Emergency, declared by the Governor on March 5, 2020. At such time as the State of Emergency concludes the deadlines imposed by the MPIA will begin to run.
2. To the extent that documents and records requested pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act are available for City staff to access remotely, staff shall use its best efforts to timely respond to requests during the pendency of the state of emergency and proclamation of catastrophic health emergency specified in the Governor’s Order.
3. Reasonable public notice of this Notice be provided, by posting this Order on the City’s website and distribution via any social media regularly used by the City to communicate with residents.

This Executive Order shall take effect on April 3, 2020, and shall remain in effect until amended or repealed by subsequent order or upon the expiration of thirty (30) days following the Governor’s termination of the Maryland State of Emergency, whichever is earlier.

Robert DiSpinto

Robert DiSpinto, City Manager