



## Agenda Item Summary

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### **Submitted By**

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### **Reviewed By**

LKS

### **Agenda Item Title**

**Discussion and Possible Emergency Board Action for Matters Affecting Public Health Due to the Outbreak of the COVID-19 Disease in the State of Illinois**

### **Overview**

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the Village Board is being asked to declare a local public health emergency, a procedural step under state law to respond to rapidly changing challenges of the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19. Both the State of Illinois and Cook County have already taken such action. Additionally, as a part of the March 16, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Board, staff is providing public notice of a discussion by the Village Board of matters affecting public health due to the outbreaks of the COVID-19 disease in the state of Illinois and emergency actions may be considered and taken.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Discussion and if warranted consider such actions as recommended by the Public Health Director, Emergency Services Disaster Agency and Village Manager related to matters affecting public health due to the outbreaks of the COVID-19 disease in the state of Illinois.

### **Fiscal Impact**

N/A.

### **Background**

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the Village Board is being asked to approve a procedural step under state law that would empower municipal administrators to respond more quickly to the rapidly changing challenges of the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19.

Although no confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Oak Park at the time of this documents publication, declaring a local public health emergency now will establish the legal authority for rapid mobilization of resources as needed and create the mechanisms necessary for any future reimbursements by the state and federal governments.

The declaration coincides with similar actions taken earlier this week by the state and Cook County to allow for more effective response to the evolving COVID-19 public health crisis.

Oak Park has a certified Public Health Department, one of six others that exist in Cook County along with Cook County, the City of Chicago, City of Evanston, Village of Skokie, and the Stickney Public Health District.

The local emergency declaration by Oak Park would temporarily suspend purchasing rules such as bidding requirements and Board contract approvals when quick action is deemed necessary to protect public health and it is impractical to convene a board meeting.

Administrative rules also could be authorized by the Village Manager without board approval to ensure public employees retain their wages and benefits for up to 14 days should they or a family member be asked to self-quarantine in the event of an exposures to COVID-19. Fourteen days is the quarantine time established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Further the Public Health Director will have the authority to recommend and implement if necessary, reasonable rules, regulations and orders such as cancelling of public events per Section 20-1-6 (z) of the Village Code.

#### **Alternatives**

N/A.

#### **Previous Board Action**

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the Village Board is being asked to approve a procedural step under state law that would empower municipal administrators to respond more quickly to the rapidly changing challenges of the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19.

#### **Citizen Advisory Commission Action**

N/A

#### **Anticipated Future Actions/Commitments**

It is anticipated that this agenda item will be a standing matter for Village Board discussion at future meetings.

#### **Intergovernmental Cooperation Opportunities**

The Village is working closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as a certified public health department.