

**ORDINANCE ENACTING TITLE 15 CHAPTER 7 SECTION 4 -AN EMERGENCY  
ORDINANCE TO SUPPRESS THE SPREAD OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, SARS-  
CoV-2, AND THE DISEASE IT CAUSES, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS COVID-19,  
AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and the disease it causes, commonly referred to as COVID-19, a pandemic (for reference in this ordinance, this virus and the disease that it causes are referred to as “COVID-19”); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam issued Executive Order Number Fifty-One (“EO 51”) declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia because of the COVID-19 pandemic; EO 51 acknowledged the existence of a public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and that it constitutes a “disaster” as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 because of the public health threat presented by a communicable disease anticipated to spread; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Management, declared a local emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to his authority under Virginia Code § 44-146.21, and this declaration was confirmed by the Harrisonburg City Council on March 24, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is extremely easy to transmit, can be transmitted by infected people who show no symptoms, and the population has not developed herd immunity; and

**WHEREAS**, at this time, there is no known cure, no effective treatment, no vaccine, and because people may be infected but asymptomatic, they may unwittingly infect others; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Homeless Service Providers and Local Officials* emphasizes the importance of continuing services during community spread of COVID-19 and in particular the importance of securing sites for temporary shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, many sites for temporary shelter traditionally used by service providers in and around Harrisonburg are not able to accommodate social distance and other practices necessary to lessen the risk of spread among those in need of temporary shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining appropriate measures to lessen the risk of spread among those in need of temporary shelter is significantly more difficult when rotating between multiple sites in the manner traditionally used by service providers in and around Harrisonburg; and

**WHEREAS**, the First Church of the Brethren has the facilities necessary to accommodate social distancing and other practices necessary to lessen the risk of spread among those in need of

temporary shelter, and has offered to allow Open Doors to use said facilities as a temporary shelter through December 31, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 25 of the Harrisonburg City Charter empowers the City Council to "secure the inhabitants of the city from contagious, infectious or other dangerous diseases."

**NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Harrisonburg Virginia, that:

1. City Council finds that the use of the property at 315 South Dogwood Drive, Harrisonburg, Virginia, as a temporary shelter for those experiencing homelessness is a necessary and proper means of securing the inhabitants of the city from contagious, infectious or other dangerous diseases.
2. Said property is authorized to be used as a temporary shelter for those experiencing homelessness through December 31, 2020.
3. This is an Emergency Ordinance enacted pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-1427 and supersedes any conflicting ordinance for its duration. The second reading requirement set forth in Harrisonburg City Code Section 2-1-2 is waived.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_ day of September, 2020.

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**MAYOR**

ATTESTEE:

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CITY CLERK