



Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island

Office of the Town Manager

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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-12

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the State of Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo issued Executive Order 20-03 declaring a state of emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19; and the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown declared a state of emergency through an emergency ordinance enacted on March 15, 2020, and extended through September 14, 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council delegated emergency authority to the Town Manager to take measures he deems necessary in order to protect public health and safety in response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the emergency power delegated, and state of emergency declared by the Town Council has been continued in effect inclusive of the current date; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is the most effective and important tool available to combat the spread of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order 20-58 issued by Governor Gina Raimondo on July 29, 2020, all indoor and outdoor social gatherings of more than 15 people in any public or private space are prohibited; and

WHEREAS, the University of Rhode Island (URI) has announced that although residence halls will be open in fall 2020, fewer students will be living in on-campus housing; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has cited research indicating that young, healthy adults with COVID-19 might have mild or no symptoms; and

WHEREAS, social activities among college students and other young adults must adhere to public health guidelines so that the spread of COVID-19 can be limited;

NOW THEREFORE, the following emergency measures are enacted as of Wednesday, August 26, 2020:

1. Gatherings of more than 15 people, indoors or outdoors, for any purpose, including social gatherings organized/attended by URI students, are hereby prohibited.
2. Gatherings of less than 15 people organized/attended by URI students are strongly discouraged, as such gatherings may tend to include individuals from different households who may be infected with coronavirus and may be asymptomatic.

3. Gatherings organized/attended by URI students that constitute a Public Nuisance are hereby prohibited. For purposes of this executive order, a Public Nuisance is defined as a gathering of five or more persons, including at least two URI students, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. on any public or private property where excessive noise and unlawful conduct occurs that causes a substantial disturbance of the quiet enjoyment of public or private property in a substantial part of a neighborhood. Illustrative of such unlawful conduct is traffic or obstruction of public streets by crowds or vehicles, illegal parking, public drunkenness, public urination, the service of alcohol to minors, illegal drug use, fights, disturbance of the peace, littering, or any other conduct that constitutes a violation of law or ordinances. As used herein, excessive noise is defined as noise capable of penetrating a closed vehicle from 20 feet away at the location at which the sound is being generated, or heard from 100 feet away by a person outside from which the sound is originating.
4. Violation of this executive order shall be punished by a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500) for anyone organizing or hosting such a gathering and a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for anyone attending such a gathering. Additionally, landlords and all other parties to the lease agreements for properties at which gatherings or Public Nuisances occur in violation of this executive order shall be punished by a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500).
5. The South Kingstown Police may abate a Public Nuisance by all reasonable means, including issuing an order requiring the gathering to be disbanded, issuing a citation to any violators, and arresting any violators under any applicable ordinance or state statute.
6. This executive order shall remain in effect until September 29, 2020, unless terminated prior to that date by a subsequent order. This executive order may be further extended if necessary, by a subsequent executive order. To the extent that this executive order is in any manner inconsistent with any prior executive order, the terms of this executive order shall govern.

Effective Date: August 26, 2020



Robert C. Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:



Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk