## EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09

## RESOLUTION CONTINUING A DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA RELATED TO HOUSING

WHEREAS, on or about March 6, 2020, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania declared a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the County Commissioners of the County of Lancaster (the "County"), pursuant to the authority vested by 35 Pa.C.S. § 7501, declared a disaster emergency because of the severe harm anticipated to be caused by the effects of the COVID-19 in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of East Lampeter Township declared a disaster emergency on March 16, 2020 and, on April 6, 2020, adopted Resolution No. 2020-11 continuing and renewing the disaster emergency to protect the residents of the Township; and

WHEREAS, residents of the County and Township have suffered significant financial losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, upon review of information presented by local nonprofit organizations focused on addressing homelessness within Lancaster County, the County and Township have seen an increased number of people experiencing homelessness without basic emergency shelter; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated there will be an increased need for emergency shelter due to weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the need for emergency shelter may increase in the coming months as temporary stays on eviction and foreclosure proceedings are lifted; and

WHEREAS, homeless shelters continue to experience a shortage of available space as a result of the need to comply with federal and state health and safety guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these combined circumstances may contribute to significant human suffering, creating an immediate need to provide additional adequate, safe, and habitable shelters for persons experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, there is an imminent, real or potential emergency involving a clear and present danger to life as a result of an anticipated increase in homelessness caused by the current economic and health and safety challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of East Lampeter Township adopted a declaration of disaster emergency related to housing on December 21, 2020 and provided for the operation of an emergency shelter program at certain hotels in East Lampeter Township; and

WHEREAS, this emergency shelter program has been operated successfully to date, and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Board of Supervisors of East Lampeter Township to continue the disaster emergency related to housing to address the shelter needs of the homeless on a short-term basis, and protect the public health, safety and welfare of County and Township residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors of East Lampeter Township, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501(b) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Code, 35 Pa.C.S. § 7501, as amended, does hereby declare the continuing existence of a disaster emergency related to housing in East Lampeter Township effective immediately; and

FURTHER, for the duration of this disaster emergency, the Board hereby suspends and waives all time limitations on length of stay in hotels and motels, as prescribed by Township ordinances and regulations, for this emergency shelter program; and

FURTHER, the Board hereby authorizes officials of East Lampeter Township to act as necessary to address the current emergency conditions, namely by entering into such contracts and agreements for the provision of housing and shelters as may be required to meet the emergency. Such actions may be taken without regard to the time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law.

This continuing disaster emergency declared for the Township shall take effect immediately and continue through June 30, 2021 unless rescinded or extended by further action of the Board of Supervisors.

DULY ADOPTED by the East Lampeter Township Board of Supervisors this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021, in lawful meeting duly assembled.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP, LANCASTER COUNTY

By:

Corey Meyer, Chairman

**SEAL** 

By:

Ralph M. Hutchison, Secretary

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I, Ralph M. Hutchison, Secretary of the Board of Supervisors of East Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a legally constituted meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Lampeter Township held on March 15, 2021, at which meeting a quorum was present and voted in favor thereof.

Ralph M. Hutchison, Secretary