



Resolution 20-10
Purposes of Postponing the May 4, 2020 City Election

Effective: April 15, 2020

A Resolution of the City of New Carrollton, Maryland, for Purposes of Postponing the May 4, 2020 City Election.

WHEREAS, a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed in the State of Maryland and Prince George's County to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the states of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exist; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, is a public health catastrophe and has been confirmed in nearly all Maryland counties, with Prince George's County having the highest number of confirmed cases in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health recommend social distancing and avoiding gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the currently known and available scientific evidence and best practices support limitations on gatherings and social distancing to prevent exposures and transmissions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the threat to human health caused by transmission of COVID 19 in the City of New Carrollton and the State of Maryland, and in order to save lives, it is necessary and reasonable that individuals in the City refrain from congregating; and

WHEREAS, the City election would ordinarily be conducted at the polling location that, during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency, hinder social distancing, enable the transmission of the novel coronavirus, and pose risks to public health, welfare, and safety; and

WHEREAS, the holding of a municipal election at the polling location during or around the time of a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency would potentially expose government buildings, voters, municipal officers, employees, candidates and volunteers to the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the City election must be accessible, secure, and safe; and

WHEREAS, the City's elections are normally held on the first Monday in the month of May in accordance with the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the state of emergency and the catastrophic health emergency is impairing the ability of the municipal officials, employees, and volunteers of the City to hold an election on May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the public health and safety of the City, its citizens, officials, employees, and volunteers to postpone the May 4, 2020 City election so such election and pre-election activities do not occur during a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency such as the current COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Executive Order No. 20-03-30-03 of the Governor of the State of Maryland and the applicable provisions of Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the City has amended its Charter to provide that the City Council, may, in the event of a state of emergency or public health catastrophe, postpone the date of a City election; and


WHEREAS, before Executive Order No. 20-03-30-03 was issued on March 30, 2020, which provided guidance to municipalities on how to legally postpone elections under state law, due to the imminent March 31 deadline for the submission of petitions by candidates the City Council did pass an Emergency Ordinance on March 26, 2020, postponing the election and the deadline for candidates to submit petitions; and

WHEREAS, to remain consistent with the guidance Executive Order No. 20-03-30-03 has provided since the passage of the Emergency Ordinance, the City Council deems it prudent to postpone the election pursuant to the requirements of the aforementioned Executive Order.

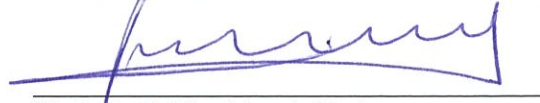
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED this 15th day of April 2020, by the City Council of New Carrollton that the election scheduled for the first Monday in May, 2020, which is May 4, 2020, be postponed to June 8, 2020.

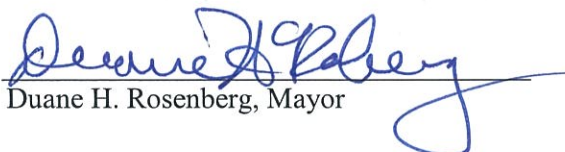
It is further resolved that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

ATTEST:


Douglass A. Barber, MMC
City Clerk

THE CITY COUNCIL OF NEW CARROLLTON


Phelecia E. Nembhard, Chair
City Council

APPROVED: 
Duane H. Rosenberg, Mayor

DATE: April 15, 2020