



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-6

Issued by

**TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT,
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Cook County, Illinois

March 27, 2020

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cook County Code of Ordinances, Sections 26-36 and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, on March 10, 2020, County Board President Toni Preckwinkle found that the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency and issued a proclamation of disaster for Cook County; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Illinois law, on March 16, 2020, the Cook County Board of Commissioners through Resolution 20-2195, extended the March 10, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster through May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (“Forest Preserve District”) is covered under Cook County’s Emergency Operations Plan as a result of the Proclamation of Disaster; and

WHEREAS, the March 16, 2020 Resolution 20-2195 further recognized and supported the issuance of Executive Orders by the President to account for the continuity of operations, institute necessary closures and implement any rules or regulations that may benefit Cook County workforce and residents during this extended Proclamation of Disaster; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2020-3 (as amended by Executive Order 2020-5) provided for the continued operation of essential functions of Forest Preserve District government while protecting the public and the Forest Preserve District employee population through a reduction of the footprint on-site in Forest Preserve District buildings; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce the on-site footprint and implement social distancing standards, Forest Preserve District Board and Committee meetings as well as Conservation and Policy Council meetings have been cancelled for the month of March, 2020; and

WHEREAS, while the above noted meetings are cancelled in March, 2020, it was necessary to grant limited authority to officials in Forest Preserve District government to ensure the continuity of government functions via Executive Order 2020-4; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to grant further limited authority to officials in Forest Preserve District government to ensure that certain services continue to be accessible to residents of Cook County.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the laws of the State of Illinois, the Ordinances of Cook County and the Forest Preserve District and the March 10, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster, that was extended by the Board of Commissioners through May 31, 2020 on March 16, 2020,

I, TONI PRECKWINKLE, President of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, **DO HEREBY ORDER**, as follows:

1. Licensing Authority.

The approval of the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners shall not be required to authorize licenses for the limited use of Forest Preserve District land for the following purposes: (a) electric, gas or other fuel, telephone, and water utilities that supply services to Cook County residents, including without limitation fiber optic cables; (b) use to prevent flooding within parts of Cook County; and (c) use of Forest Preserve District property by other government agencies as part of a coordinated response to the public health emergency described in the Proclamation of Disaster (“Essential Licenses”).

Subject to the limitations provided in this Section 1, effective March 27, 2020 through May 1, 2020, the General Superintendent or designee of the General Superintendent shall have the authority to approve all Essential Licenses that would otherwise require the advance approval of the Board of Commissioners under the Forest Preserve District’s Code of Ordinances. The General Superintendent or designee of the General Superintendent shall further have the authority to extend any existing licenses that will expire between March 27, 2020 through May 1, 2020 for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

Prior to applicable General Superintendent approval, (a) the Forest Preserve District’s Planning and Development Department shall prepare a report for the General Superintendent detailing the impact of the proposed license or license extension on Forest Preserve District property; and (b) for Essential Licenses, the concurrence as to the essential nature of the license must be obtained from the Forest Preserve District’s Real Estate Agent and Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs.

All licensees under licenses issued or extended pursuant to this Order shall be required to pay all fees and other charges required by the Forest Preserve District’s Code of Ordinances, provided such fees or charges may be waived or modified in the General Superintendent’s discretion for licenses or license extensions issued to other governmental entities.

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The General Superintendent shall issue a report on all licenses and license extensions processed under this authority on the 15th of each month to the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that, this order shall take effect upon its execution and filing with the Secretary of the Board and that immediate notice of this order be delivered by the Secretary to the Board to the seventeen members of the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners and General Superintendent.



Toni Preckwinkle
President

Dated: March 27, 2020

ATTEST:



Matthew B. DeLeon
Board Secretary

Received and Filed: March 27, 2020