

ORDINANCE #2020-27

AN ORDINANCE BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-14 (THE “COVID-19” ORDINANCE) BY EXPANDING ITS SCOPE AND EXTENDING THE DATE ON WHICH IT WILL “SUNSET”

WHEREAS, in light of the dangers posed by Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 103 (2020) on March 9, 2020, the facts and circumstances of which are adopted by reference herein, which declared both a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020) has since been twice extended, and continues to exist today; and

WHEREAS, as COVID-19 continued to spread across New Jersey and an increasing number of individuals required medical care or hospitalization, Governor Murphy issued a series of Executive Orders pursuant to his authority under the New Jersey Civilian Defense and Disaster Control Act and the Emergency Health Powers Act, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare against the emergency created by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as the rate of reported new cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey has decreased, the State has eased a number of the restrictions that were put in place to limit person-to-person contact, and has allowed various categories of uses to resume subject to strict social distancing measures; and

WHEREAS, as various businesses in Princeton began to reopen as authorized by the various executive orders issued by the State, it became clear that accommodations would need to be made to enable said businesses to comply with the social distancing and infection control measures required of them in the various executive orders; and

WHEREAS, because it was difficult if not impossible to foresee when and how the State would continue to ease restrictions, or to predict all of the myriad issues that would need to be solved locally as merchants and residents strove to adapt, the Mayor and Council on June 15, 2020 adopted Ordinance No. 2020-14, which in recognition of the unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, temporarily relaxed or suspended certain requirements presently set forth in Princeton’s ordinances, and established a more streamlined process by which staff and officials could react and addresses issues as they arose; and

WHEREAS, since then, situations have arisen that were not covered by the terms of Ordinance No. 2020-14; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2020-14 contains a “sunset” provision whereby its provisions will automatically become null and void on the 120th day after its effective date, unless further extended; and

WHEREAS, the process established by Ordinance No. 2020-14 has been successful, and the Mayor and Council finds that it is in the best interests of the public to (a) broaden the scope of the ordinance and (b) extend the date by which the ordinance will “sunset”;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of Princeton, that the provisions of Ordinance No. 2020-14 applicable to retail food establishments shall also be applicable to other retail establishments as well as personal service establishments; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the provisions of Ordinance No. 2020-14 as amended by this ordinance shall remain in effect until December 31, 2020, after which they shall automatically terminate and become null and void; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication and as otherwise provided for by law.

Delores A. Williams, RMC, Clerk

Hon. Liz Lempert, Mayor

Ordinance Introduced: _____, 2020

Ordinance Adopted: _____, 2020

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this ordinance is to amend Ordinance No. 2020-14—which was adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic—by expanding the scope of that ordinance to apply to all retail and service establishments, and by extending to December 31, 2020 the date on which the ordinance will expire.