



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-7

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor John Carney issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency for the State of Delaware (the "Emergency Declaration") due to the public health threat created by the novel coronavirus disease ("COVID-19"), and has since issued 23 modifications and 4 extensions to the Emergency Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 public health threat is a novel, longer-term threat;

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Governor's Sixth Modification to the Emergency Declaration placed a moratorium on residential mortgage foreclosure proceedings to enable Delawareans to shelter in place safely; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the Delaware Supreme Court issued an administrative order closing all court facilities, except for certain 24-hour Justice of the Peace Courts, effective as of March 23, 2020, in response to the public health threat posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the public health threat created by COVID-19, and efforts to reduce its spread, will continue to take a steep financial toll on Delaware residents for the indefinite future; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 9 Del. C. § 330, New Castle County (the "County") has general powers and duties to direct, manage, and control its business and finances; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, I issued Executive Order 2020-5, in which I, among other things, prohibited the initiation of any new motion action for collection of delinquent taxes or the execution on any existing judgment in favor of the County; and

WHEREAS, certain vacant residential and commercial properties, delinquent long before the COVID-19 crisis, have continued to deteriorate, posing a significant threat to the health and safety of neighboring properties and property owners; and

WHEREAS, the Procedures for the Prioritization of Properties for Sheriff's Sales attached to Executive Order 2017-7, prioritize the sale of parcels that are vacant, or constitute a threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, although the County has taken and continues to take measures necessary to ameliorate the detrimental financial and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is equally necessary for the County to address existing public health and safety issues stemming from long-delinquent vacant residential and commercial properties.

NOW THEREFORE, I, the County Executive, direct that the following policy be implemented:

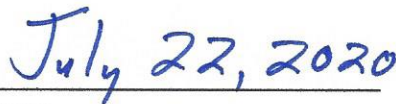
1. For any occupied properties: New Castle County shall not initiate any new monition action for collection of delinquent taxes or execute on any existing judgment in favor of the County.
2. For delinquent vacant residential and commercial properties: New Castle County may initiate monitions and execute on any existing judgment in favor of the County, consistent with Executive Orders 2017-6, 2017-7, 2018-5, 2018-11, and 2018-12, only so long as a delinquency in amounts owed to the County for taxes, sewer, or Code enforcement fees existed before March 12, 2020. Any conflicting provision in Executive Order 2020-5 is hereby rescinded.

This Executive Order shall become enforceable immediately upon signature by the New Castle County Executive. This Executive Order shall remain in effect until and unless rescinded by subsequent order of the New Castle County Executive.

So Ordered:



Matthew Meyer
New Castle County Executive



Date