



Edward M. Kuca, Jr.
Mayor

Judy L. Hunt
City Clerk/Treasurer

**DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY
AND EXISTENCE OF CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY – COVID -19**

WHEREAS, an outbreak of disease (“COVID-19”), including caused by the novel coronavirus occurred in Hubel province, China, in late-2019, and has currently been detected in more than 89 countries, including the United States;

AND WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease, resulting in illness or death in the United States, caused by person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus, which was not previously found in humans;

AND WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, as a viral agent capable of causing extensive loss of life or serious disability, is a deadly agent;

AND WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared the COVID-19 outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern”;

AND WHEREAS, the limited availability of COVID-19 testing in the United States has limited testing throughout West Virginia;

AND WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency;

AND WHEREAS, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has declared that COVID-9 creates a public health emergency;

AND WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Governor of West Virginia declared that a state of emergency exists in West Virginia and its counties with regard to the threat posed by the novel coronavirus;

AND WHEREAS, the Governor of West Virginia ordered all public and private schools closed throughout West Virginia through at least March 27, 2020, in order to keep all West Virginians as safe as possible and March 23, 2020 the Governor of West Virginia ordered the closure of all non-essential business to close and stressed all people should confine themselves to their homes;

AND WHEREAS, the City of Benwood has the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other cities across the world to help slow down or stop the spread of COVID-19 in our City and State; and

AND WHEREAS, I have continuously reviewed the situation, consulted with City Department Directors, Emergency Management Officials, Public Health Officials, and other state and local governmental officials in order to determine the need for this proclamation; NOW, THEREFORE;

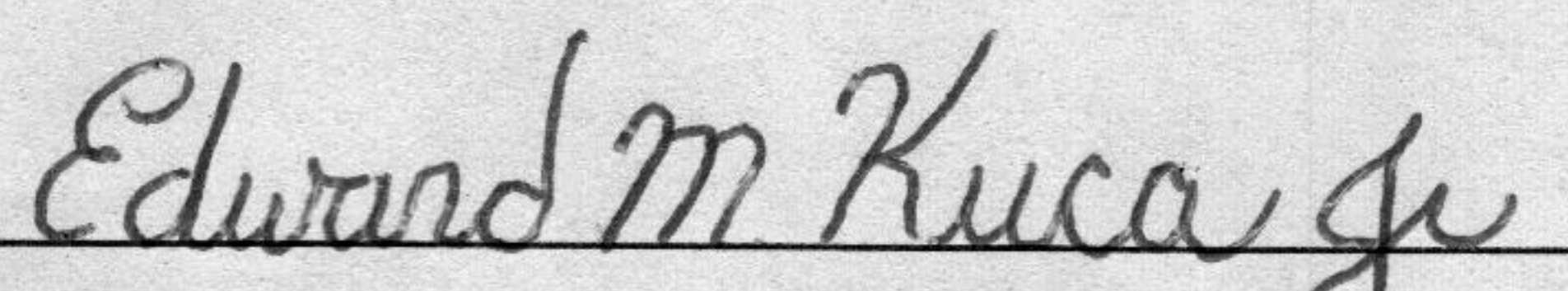
I, EDWARD M. KUCA, JR., MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM, pursuant to the authority granted in West Virginia Code § 15-5-1, et seq., and City Municipal Code §105.01, et seq., that the spread of COVID-19 in the United States creates an existing and threatened state of emergency endangering the lives, safety, health and welfare of the people within the City of Benwood.

I hereby declare to all persons the existence of this state of emergency and, in order to more effectively protect the lives of people within the City of Benwood, effective upon the signing of this proclamation, I will be exercising the authority granted to me in West Virginia Code § 15-5-1, et seq. and through the issuance of executive orders, emergency policies, and through the use and direction of City personnel, services, and equipment, to perform acts necessary to the management of this existing and threatened state of emergency.

Pursuant to the authority granted to me in West Virginia Code § 15-5-1, et seq., it shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of any restriction imposed by the executive orders or emergency policies issued under the authority of this proclamation.

Upon execution, this proclamation shall be filed with the City Clerk and a copy shall be sent to the Benwood City Council, Marshall County Commission and the Governor of West Virginia.

DATED this 24th day of March, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.


Edward M. Kuca, Jr., Mayor