



Chief Steven J. Wojnar

**TOWN OF DUDLEY
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Attorney General Maura Healey
1 Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
ATTN: Municipal Law Unit

Re: Town of Dudley; Moderator's Declaration of Continuation and Recess of Spring Special Town Meeting

Dear Attorney General Healey:

Pursuant to G.L. c 39, §10A, on behalf of the Town of Dudley Board of Selectmen, this is to inform you of the Dudley Town Moderator's recent Declaration of Recess and Continuance ("Declaration") of the upcoming Special Town Meeting, previously scheduled for March 30, 2020. The reasons for this Declaration are set forth in the Declaration, which is enclosed, but broadly summarized, the continuation has been deemed necessary due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda, or Town Counsel Michele E. Randazzo at KP Law, P.C., if there are any questions in this regard.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven J. Wojnar
Chief of Police

Enc.

cc: Town Administrator
Board of Selectmen
Town Moderator
Town Clerk
KP Law, P.C.

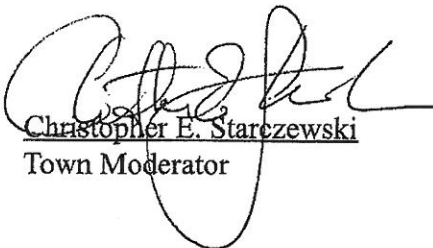
**DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE
OF
March 30, 2020 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

This Declaration is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Moderator by the provisions of G.L. c. 39, §10A. I hereby provide notice to the Town of Dudley that I have determined that it is in the public's interest, due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, to recess and continue the March 30, 2020 Special Town Meeting until 7:00pm on April 17, 2020 in the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley in the Veterans Memorial Hall, Room 321a.

I have issued this Declaration after careful and considerable deliberation about the implications of the rapid spread of the disease, present lack of containment, and risk to most vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings at this time. Various professional sports leagues, universities, school districts, cultural institutions and events, and more, have been cancelled, closed, or temporarily suspended normal operations. Similarly, various public and private entities have significantly restricted operations in response to the continued spread of the virus. Based upon the recommendations from the Governor, among others, that large gatherings be avoided, including the Governor's ban on gatherings of more than 25 people, and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, I consulted with public safety officials, the Board of Health, and members of the Select Board and reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A significant consideration in this decision includes the important role of Town Meeting as the legislative body of the Town, and my obligation to ensure that all who wish to participate are able, particularly, vulnerable members of our community.

Being respectful of the health, safety and wellbeing of all of the voters of the Town, therefore, I have determined in accord with G.L. c.39, §10A that the rapidly evolving situation involving COVID-19 will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the March 30, 2020 Special Town Meeting and that they will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meeting. A delay at this time will avoid forcing voters to choose between participating in the Town Meeting and managing their health in a manner most appropriate for them.

Please contact the Town Administrator's office with any further questions at 508-949-8030.


Christopher E. Starczewski
Town Moderator

March 19, 2020 at 7:45p.m.