FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Haven Mayor Elicker Issues Fifth Emergency Order
Requiring the Use of Face Coverings in Public

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Today, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker signed his fifth emergency order amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This emergency order would require the use of face coverings in essential retail businesses, including grocery stores and big-box stores or wholesale clubs that also sell foods or beverages; restaurants and hotels where food is prepared, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, and liquor/package stores.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance recommending that people wear cloth masks to protect others from contracting the virus. Wearing a cloth mask does not protect the mask-wearer from contracting the virus, but it reduces transmission of the disease should the mask-wearer be infected by COVID-19. Evidence shows that someone may have COVID-19 while not showing any signs and may still be able to spread the disease. As such, having widespread use of masks can reduce the spread of the virus.

It is also ordered that business proprietors may refuse customers not wearing facemasks. Employers must provide all workers in these essential retail businesses with face coverings as well, and such workers must wear face coverings.

The City encourages members of the public to use cloth face coverings instead of medical-grade N95 respirators, as those masks are much needed for medical staff and first responders. Members of the public should not feel any need to purchase masks, as cloth masks can include the use of a towel, handkerchief, or other cloth covering. The order will go into effect on Friday morning, April 17, 2020.
“I want to thank every resident for doing their part to practice social distancing and slow the spread of the virus. We must take every precaution to further limit the spread of COVID-19 in New Haven,” stated Mayor Justin Elicker. “Wearing a mask is an important way to protect your neighbors, family members, and others from contracting COVID-19. We are fast approaching 800 positive cases in the Elm City. This fifth emergency order is a step to further protect our residents and frontline staff working at essential retail businesses. Please stay home as much as you can and stay safe,” he concluded.

Read the full text of the emergency order below:

**EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 5 REGARDING REQUIRED USE OF FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC**

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut declared a public health emergency and a civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that is currently affecting multiple countries and states; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut issued Executive Order Number 7, limiting the number of individuals that may convene, meet or otherwise gather throughout the State, to no more than 250 people or more for social and recreational activities including, but not limited to, community, civic, leisure, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; movie screenings; plays or performances; conventions; and similar activities; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency to combat the coronavirus that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, the Mayor of the City of New Haven, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-8a(a), 28-1(8), and 28-22, and Chapter 11, Section 11-23 et seq. of the Code of General Ordinances of the City of New Haven, declared a state of emergency due to the significant danger to public health posed by the spread of COVID-19 and shortages of supplies and equipment necessary to protect the public health and safety, and the spread of COVID-19 to residents of the City of New Haven as a result of the global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut issued Executive Order 7X extending previously issued orders regarding Closures, Distancing, and Safety Measures Through May 20, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the significant adverse impact on public health of COVID-19, the Mayor must take action for the purpose of ensuring civil preparedness and mitigating the adverse effects of this emergency situation upon the residents of New Haven; and

**WHEREAS**, among best practices and prescribed measures of mitigation in light of this public health emergency is social distancing and the wearing of masks or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is difficult to maintain; and

**WHEREAS**, the powers granted by Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-8a(a), 28-1(8), and 28-22, and Chapter 11, Sections 6, 7 and 11-23 et seq. of the Code of General Ordinances of the...
City of New Haven, proclaim said Mayor to have and exercise all executive and administrative powers conferred upon any municipal chief executive; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the duties assigned by the City Charter to the Mayor of the City of New Haven that require the Mayor to cause the Charter, the Ordinances and laws to be executed and enforced, and to conserve the peace within the City, the Mayor shall be responsible for the good Order and efficient government of the City; and

WHEREAS, in response to the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and a civil preparedness emergency by the State of Connecticut, a declaration of national emergency and the spread of COVID-19 to residents of the City of New Haven; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City and people of New Haven to promote public health and to ensure civil preparedness and to minimize the adverse impacts of the current public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency posed by the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, pursuant to the powers and duties granted in the Connecticut General Statutes and the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Haven, in response to the civil preparedness and public health emergency now facing the City of New Haven, and in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control and advice from the City's public health officials to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, effective on Friday, April 17, 2020, at 12:01 a.m.:

That all workers who work in essential retail businesses including grocery stores and big-box stores or wholesale clubs that also sell foods or beverages; restaurants and hotels where food is prepared, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, and liquor/package stores must wear face coverings over their noses and mouths while performing their work. Face coverings are not required to be medical-grade masks or N95 respirators, but rather may be non-medical grade masks, cloth masks, or other fabric coverings, such as scarves and bandanas. All workers required to wear these face coverings must wash any reusable face coverings at least once a day. Single-use face coverings must be properly discarded into trash receptacles and disposed of.

Face coverings for employees required under this order must be provided by the employers, although an employee may provide his or her own face covering.

The use of medical-grade masks or N95 respirators is discouraged because those masks are or may be in short supply and should be reserved for health-care personnel or first responders.

All customers and visitors of retail businesses subject to this order must wear face coverings over their noses and mouths to provide additional protection for employees and customers. Face coverings need not be medical-grade masks or N95 respirators but may be non-medical grade masks, cloth masks, or other fabric coverings, such as scarves and bandanas.

An owner or operator of a retail business subject to this order may refuse admission or service to any individual who fails to wear a face covering.

Owners and operators of retail business subject to this order shall use proper sanitization practices to sanitize frequently used and touched items and infrastructure within stores and provide proper hand washing and sanitizing materials for employees as recommended by the CDC.
This order is subject to enforcement by the Director of the Health Department of the City of New Haven.

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that nothing in this order should be deemed or construed to counteract, reverse, withdraw, revoke or otherwise amend any other previously or subsequently issued order unless expressly stated; and,

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that this order shall remain in effect until September 14, 2020, (the “effective period”) unless amended or earlier terminated; and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that this order will be made publicly available for inspection and review in the Office of the Town Clerk of the City of New Haven and shall be posted on the City of New Haven website.

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