

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI**

**ORDINANCE # 2020-xx-xx**

It is hereby ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth, that Chapter 15 Emergency Management, Section 3 Paragraph A, of the Portsmouth Code of Ordinances be amended to update the language to ensure a clear succession of authority exists in declaring a disaster should the Town Council President be unable to perform the emergency declaration duties.

§15-3 Declaration of local disaster emergency is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. A local disaster emergency may be declared only by the Town Council President of the Town of Portsmouth. It shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days, except by or with the consent of the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth. Any order or proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a local disaster emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Town Clerk. Should the Town Council President be unable to perform the declaration of disaster duties, those duties will fall in order of precedence to the Town officials described in the Town's Emergency Operations Plan approved by the Town Council, under the plan's section titled Duties of the Town's Chief Executive Officer.

This amendment shall take effect upon passage.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL  
ACTION ON JANUARY 13, 2020.

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Jennifer M. West,  
Town Clerk