**THE COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1**

**IN THE TOWNSHIP OF DEPTFORD, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER**

**RESOLUTION # 2020-19**

**FOR HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS OF FIE COMMISSIONERS VIA TELECONFERENCE DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

***WHEREAS*,** the Governor of the State of New Jersey, through Executive Order #103 issued on March 9, 2020, has declared a State of Emergency (the “State of Emergency”) throughout the State as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

***WHEREAS***, on March 20, 2020, the Governor of the State of New Jersey signed into law Bill No. A-3850, which is an amendment to Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.;

***WHEREAS***, the amendment to the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies such as the Deptford Fire District No. 1 to conduct business via electronic means for the purposes permitted by that amendment;

***WHEREAS***, the amendment to the Open Public Meetings Act also permits public bodies such as the Deptford Fire District No. 1 to forego formal notice as required by the Act, and to permit electronic notice, under certain permitted circumstances;

***WHEREAS***, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Governor’s Executive Orders, it is in the best interest of the public health and safety of the residents of Deptford Township that all public meetings of the Board of Fire Commissioners be held via teleconference during the COVID-19 pandemic;

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** this 8th day of April 2020 as follows:

1, The public meetings (including public work sessions) of Deptford Board of Fire Commissioners, whether regularly-scheduled or on an emergency basis, will take place by teleconference effective immediately and until the State of Emergency is over, or until such time as the Board of Fire Commissioners deems it is safe for such public meetings to again be held in person.

2. The aforementioned public meetings by teleconference will be for the purposes of: (1) conducting meetings and any public business related thereto; (2) causing a meeting to be open to the public; (3) voting by the Board of Fire Commissioners; and (4) receiving public comment.

3. The public meetings by teleconference will be open to all members of the general public using the teleconference and/or other telecommunications instructions to be posted by the Board of Fire Commissioners in advance of each meeting, at the Deptford Fire Administration Building and at the website of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

4. The Board of Fire Commissioners also authorizes Michael White, or his designee, to provide only electronic notice of public meetings, during such emergency if required under the circumstances to protect the public health and safety, provided that such public meetings where electronic notice only is provided that be limited, to the extent practicable, to matters necessary for the continuing operation of the Fire District and which relate to the State of Emergency.

5, The Board of Fire Commissioners Michael White or his designee to complete the necessary electronic postings for this Resolution and for the aforementioned public meetings.

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|  |  | YES | NO | ABSTAIN |
| MICHAEL WHITE, CHAIRMAN |  |  |  |
| RAYMOND MACKAY JR., TREASURER |  |  |  |
| JOSEPH NILSEN, SECRETARY |  |  |  |
| GEORGE FRANK, COMMISSIONER |  |  |  |
| ROBERT SHEAIRS, COMMISSIONER |  |  |  |

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