

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06

A Resolution concerning

**Temporary Postponement of Charles County Tax Sales**

**WHEREAS**, Maryland is subject to the impacts of a wide variety of natural hazards, which includes pandemics related to viral disease, or disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, The Charles County Department of Emergency Services has advised the Charles County Government that Charles County is incurring a significant impact from a public health emergency related to the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 5, 2020, a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the state, and the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exists; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 16, 2020, Governor Larry Hogan issued an Executive Order which placed a moratorium on certain evictions because of the potential loss of substantial personal income by individuals suffered as a result of the COVID-19 state of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 17, 2020, Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President of the Charles County Board of County Commissioners, declared that a State of Emergency exists in Charles County; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 30, 2020 Governor Larry Hogan issued a shelter in place order directing all Maryland residents to stay in their home and only leave for essential circumstances as a result of the significant threat to public health, safety and well-being created by the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 31, 2020 the State of Emergency in Charles County was continued pursuant to a unanimous vote of Board of County Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, such extreme conditions are highly hazardous and may threaten or imperil the health, welfare and public safety of the citizens of Charles County; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles County Government, under the direction of its Treasurer, has certain tax sales scheduled for May 13, 2020, where such tax sales are required to satisfy unpaid taxes on real property; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and state of emergency, a large portion of the business establishments have been forced to cease or limit operations thereby resulting in a substantial loss of personal incomes to individuals employed by such businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the potential loss of substantial personal income by certain individuals, they have lost the financial ability to satisfy their debts prior to the execution of the tax sale thereby staying or eliminating the tax sale; and

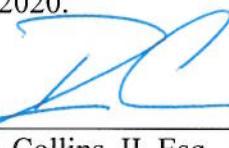
**WHEREAS**, The Maryland Annotated Code, Tax Property Article, 14-808(a)(1) states that the collector shall proceed to sell and shall sell under this subtitle, at the time required by local law but in no case later than 2 years from the date the tax is in arrears, all property in the county in which the collector is appointed on which the tax is in arrears; and

**WHEREAS**, The Charles County Code provides no shorter time period within which a tax sale must occur; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Charles County Board of County Commissioners, in recognition of the economic hardship facing many of our citizens as a result of the COVID- 19 pandemic, do hereby resolve to postpone any and all tax sales currently scheduled in Charles County until May 2021; and

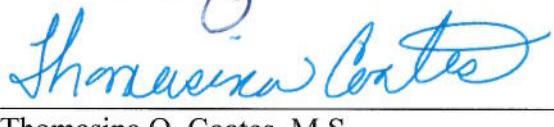
**IT IS FURTHER, RESOLVED** that the Treasurer of Charles County, in his discretion may begin rescheduling any postponed tax sale at a date prior to May 2021 once the state of emergency is lifted.

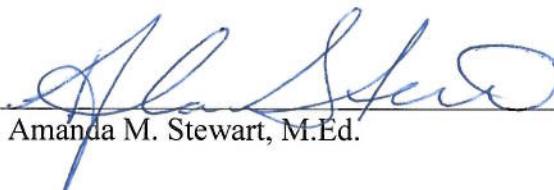
ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.

  
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

  
Bobby Rucci, Vice-President

  
Gilbert O. Bowling

  
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.

  
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

ATTEST:

  
Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners