



# City of Norwich Emergency Operations Center

18 East Main Street  
Norwich, New York 13815  
(607) 334-1299  
(607) 336-2080 (fax)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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For additional information contact:

A. Wesley Jones  
(607) 226-1299 (cell)

NORWICH – Mayor Shawn Sastri has issued a State of Emergency declaration for the City of Norwich in regards to the COVID-19 response.

The State of Emergency specifically permits the City to establish mutual aid agreements for police coverage and response in the event of the virus impacting the police department.

“We have no issues at this time, but this is a pre-emptive measure to make sure we will be able to adequately respond since this situation is expected to last for several months,” said Sastri.

County and State mutual aid plans are already in place for fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) that allow for the moving of resources on a day-to-day basis and in the event of an emergency.

“Police mutual aid is a little trickier due to laws regarding the authority of officers outside their jurisdiction,” said Norwich Police Chief Rodney Marsh. “The emergency declaration gives us the latitude to get or give mutual aid.”

Mayor Sastri established the City’s Director of Emergency Management, A. Wesley Jones, to lead the City’s response and coordinate with the County Public Health Department and Office of Emergency Management.

“We have been having frequent department head meetings and all of our City departments are working efficiently to meeting the state’s orders, keep the public informed and get critical supplies for our responders,” said Sastri. “In conjunction with the County we are also working to make sure our health care facilities, including the hospital, have the supplies they need.”

“This is a challenging situation on a local level, all the way up to the federal level, but we are doing everything we can to support the response,” said Jones.