

**(20-27) RESOLUTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN TO CONTINUE A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE RELIEF AND SUPPORT TO ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS, BUSINESSES, NON-PROFITS AND RESIDENTS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN ECONOMICALLY AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Primary – F&B**

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut declared a public health emergency and 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 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**, the effects the transmission of COVID-19 has resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and throughout the country, as well as resulting in shortages of personal protective equipment and other supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency by the Governor of this State, and a national emergency by the President of the United States, and the spread of COVID-19 to an unknown number of Connecticut residents as a result of the global pandemic, a local state of emergency now exists in the Town of Darien; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 204 of the Connecticut General Statutes sets forth tax collection deadlines that will be difficult for residential and commercial property owners to meet in light of significant job and economic losses experienced by Connecticut residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities have sought relief on behalf of taxpayers who are struggling due to business operations being suspended or ceased, layoffs and other complications due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 7-S provided and ordered that there would be established programs to offer support to eligible taxpayers, businesses, non-profits and residents who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 7-S ordered that each municipality should participate in one or both programs known as a deferment program and/or a low interest rate program; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 27, 2020, the RTM of the Town of Darien unanimously approved a deferment program; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 16, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut issued an executive order to extend the benefits under Executive Order 7-S so as to apply to tax deadlines and collection efforts for tax bills that become due and payable on January 1, 2021. It further provides that each municipality, by a determination by its local legislative body, or, in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the Board of Selectmen, shall participate in one or both programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 9-R further provides that said municipality shall notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on or before December 30, 2020, about which program or programs it is electing to pursue.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Darien, acting through its legislative body hereby approves the continuation of said deferment program with eligibility criteria established by the Office of Policy and Management.