

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

Free and Accepted Masons

State of New Jersey

M.W. Jeffrey Cordell Spann

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Issues Statement #2 on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Worldwide Pandemic Masonic State of Emergency MWPHGL of New Jersey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2020

To: Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Worshipful Brethren, Right Worshipful Brethren, Officers and Members of the Constituent Lodges, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Grand Chapter Officers, and Officers and Members of the Subordinate Chapters

New Jersey — The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New Jersey, under the direction of the 90th Most Worshipful Grand Master Jeffrey Cordell Spann issues Statement #2 regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) worldwide pandemic.

Day to day life has changed as we know it. Our nation, schools, government, sports games, travel, entertainment and several social events begin to take active measures of protection to “slow” down this worldwide pandemic.

I will do my very best by keeping each of you informed as we learn of the new and latest changes together.

By the powers vested in me, I, Most Worshipful Jeffrey Cordell Spann, 90th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey do hereby declare the following:

Effective Immediately

All Masonic Lodge Stated Communications are hereby **suspended until Monday June 1, 2020**, with the goal of resuming meetings on said date. Lodges are to hold Nomination, Election and Installation of Officers during the month of June and **must be completed prior to Grand Session**.

All Worshipful Masters are to continue to conduct the business of your Lodge. I authorize you and your fiscal officers to do so virtually, minimizing group interactions to the highest degree possible, especially with members who are part of the identified “at-risk” group. Please consider the health, safety and well-being of your members and you must send a copy of Statement Release #2 to every member on the rolls of your Lodge.

All Scheduled Degree work should proceed as planned. You are to open your Lodge, conduct your Degree and close. No Masonic business will take place.

~T.E.A.M.~

“Together Everyone Achieves More”

“The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

All District meetings are suspended for the remainder of this Masonic year. Worshipful Masters, you are to submit your monthly activities and standard Lodge reports to your respective District Deputy Grand Master, cc'ing myself and our Grand Secretary.

All Masonic visitations and travel in and outside of the Jurisdiction of New Jersey is limited only if you have submitted and received approval previously. **All other Masonic travel has been suspended until further notice.**

Prince Hall Family, you are to govern yourselves accordingly in respect to your office. Please, I ask you to also consider the health, safety and well-being of your members.

These are trying times for us all as we adhere to the recommendations of the CDC. Please see the CDC factsheet on how to help reduce the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) or by visiting the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.

We shall continue to be vigilant, proactive and mindful of the choices we must make during this unprecedented time in our lives. Each of us will do our part, be it big or small.

We pray for you, your families, and your respective Prince Hall family organizations during this international crisis and ask that you take every precaution to protect yourselves and those you love.



Respectfully and Fraternally,

Most Worshipful Jeffrey Cordell Spann, 90th Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey

Attest: *James G. Allen*

James G. Allen,
Grand Secretary

~T.E.A.M.~

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