PROCLAMATION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF
EMERGENCY COVID-19

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States signaled that transmission of the virus is no longer limited to travel to affected geographic areas with widespread or sustained community transmission including China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea, or contact with travelers who had visited affected geographic regions; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2020, the World Health Organization officials upgraded its global risk assessment of the novel coronavirus’ potential for spread and impact from “high” to “very high”; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order 20-51 to permit a statewide response to COVID-19, naming the Florida Department of Health as the lead agency to coordinate and administer emergency responses and directing the State Health Officer and Surgeon General to declare a public health emergency in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the State Health Officer and Surgeon General declared a public health emergency after two Florida residents tested “presumptively positive” for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, the Governor of Florida directed the Florida Division of Emergency Management to activate the State Emergency Operations Center to Level 2 to provide coordination and response to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida, designating the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer, directing the State Coordinating Officer to execute the State’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and designating the State Health Officer and Surgeon General as Deputy State Coordinating Officer and State Incident Commander, and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Leon County Emergency Operations Center was partially activated by request of the Florida Department of Health in Leon County to assist in convening agencies, providing coordination, and aligning public information efforts; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 68, sections 5121-5207), known as the “Stafford Act,” which provides legal authority for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to states during declared major disasters and emergencies; and
WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida (the "Board") has adopted the Emergency Management Ordinance, No. 93-16, being codified in Chapter 2, Article VIII, of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida, providing authorization for the designation of a county official to declare a state of emergency where a quorum of the Board is unable to meet; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, provides authority for the waiver by the Board of procedures and formalities otherwise required of Leon County under the circumstance of a local State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists in Leon County the potential for a local disaster or emergency as defined in Leon County Ordinance No. 93-16, as codified in Chapter 2, Articles VIII, of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, there is a necessity for a prompt and efficient response in order to safeguard lives and continue the provision of services during the local public health emergency and/or disaster; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of a local emergency, due to a public health emergency, includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of the disease, including social distancing, isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT to the authority conferred by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Leon County Ordinance Number 93-16, as codified in Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida, as Chairman of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, and pursuant to Section 2-306 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, after consultation with state and local authorities that public health conditions require immediate and expeditious action as a result of a threat of a public health crisis within Leon County and neighboring counties, I hereby declare that a local state of emergency exists in Leon County effective at 2 p.m. on March 16, 2020, and will continue to exist until further notice in accordance with Section 2-307, Leon County Code of Laws.

THIS PROCLAMATION authorizes the activation of the Leon County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the exercise of all powers provided by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Leon County Ordinance 93-16, as codified in Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida, and ratifies the actions previously taken by Leon County in response to the threat of a public health crisis within Leon County and neighboring counties.

Dated, this 16th day of March, 2020.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: [Signature]
Bryan Desloge, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTESTED BY:
Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of Court
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

By: [Signature]

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Leon County Attorney’s Office

By: [Signature]
Herbert W.A. Thiele, Esq.
County Attorney