



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 1 - Tommy Hamm
District 2 - Robert Carroll, Vice
Chairman
District 3 - William T. Dozier
District 4 - Keith Baker
District 5 - Philip Griff Griffiths,
Chairman

March 20, 2020

SPECIAL MEETING Discuss Potential Emergency Measures Aimed at Combatting COVID-19

4:00 PM - BAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

840 WEST 11TH STREET

PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. ROLL CALL**
- C. INVOCATION**
- D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- E. BAY COUNTY EMERGENCY DECLARATION ORDER 20-01**
- F. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- H. ADJOURN**

BAY COUNTY EMERGENCY DECLARATION ORDER 20-01

**AN ORDER AND DECLARATION REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF BEACHES
DURING THE COVID-19 LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring that a state of emergency exists throughout the State of Florida due to the spread of COVID-19 in the State and its imminent threat to the health and welfare of Florida citizens;

WHEREAS, the Executive Order, in accordance with Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, authorizes political subdivisions to take whatever prudent action that is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes authorizes political subdivisions to take all necessary action and issue any necessary orders to protect human life; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, by Resolution 3700, the Bay County Board of County Commissioners issued a Declaration of Local State of Emergency regarding the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-68 limiting gatherings on Florida beaches and supporting local beach closures; and

WHEREAS, the Bay County Board of County Commissioners finds that gatherings on Bay County beaches constitutes a threat to public health and safety and is likely to lead to the spread of COVID-19 and that the immediate enactment of an Emergency Order to temporarily close the beaches in Bay County is necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. All beaches, beach accesses, and parking for beach accesses in Bay County, Florida are temporarily closed to the public.
2. MB Miller Pier is temporarily closed to everyone except for the use of the pier for fishing.
3. It shall be unlawful for members of the public to access the beaches in Bay County.
4. For purposes of this Order the following definitions shall apply:
 - a. "Beach" shall include all sandy beach areas from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the frontal dune, or where there is no frontal dune, to the line of permanent vegetation or construction, whichever is more seaward; and
 - b. "Beach access" shall mean public beach access points, including associated boardwalks, walkways, dedicated parking areas, and the area on the beach beginning at the entrance to the beach.

5. A violation of this Order shall be punished in accordance with Bay County Code Sec. 1-6;

6. This Order shall become effective immediately and shall be in effect for seven (7) days, unless extended by the Bay County Board of County Commissioners.

If any provision of this Order is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of the Order, which shall continue to have the full force and effect of law.

Done and ordered this 20th day of March, 2020.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Philip "Griff" Griffiths, Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk of Circuit Court

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

County Attorney