

# RESOLUTION FOR THE DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

## RESOLUTION NO. 2020R - 07

WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Emergency Management recognizes the danger to residents of Florida from the COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus) throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County began emergency protective actions for this response on March 18, 2020.

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 the affected geographic regions; 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 disaster and 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

WHEREAS, in Governor Executive Order Number 20-68 local restaurants shall maintain no more than 50 percent capacity of its current building occupancy, ensuring staggered and limited seating between patrons of a minimum of six (6) feet apart, and limiting parties to no more than ten (10) individuals; and

WHEREAS, in Governor Executive Order Number 20-68 Licensees that are authorized to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on premises that derive more than 50% of its gross revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages shall suspend all sale of alcoholic beverages for thirty days from 5 pm March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County and the jurisdictions within the County have an abundance of travelers passing through, along with residents; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus) has the potential for causing extensive health impacts to the residents and visitors of Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252.38 (3) (5), Florida Statutes, provides authority for a political subdivision such as Columbia County to declare a Local State of Emergency and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions by law pertaining to:

1. Performance of Columbia County Health Department and taking whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;
2. Entering into contracts;
3. Incurring obligations;
4. Employment of permanent and temporary workers;
5. Utilization of volunteer workers;
6. Rental of equipment;
7. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials and facilities; and
8. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.
9. Provide and/or receive mutual aid as requested

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida in emergency session, this 18th day of March, 2020, that COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus) poses a serious threat to the lives and property of residents of Columbia County and that a State of Local Emergency shall be declared, effective immediately for all the territory within the legal boundaries of Columbia County, including, that all unincorporated and incorporated areas shall be embraced by the provisions of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners hereby exercises its authority under Chapter 252.38 (3) (5), Florida Statutes, and Columbia County Charter.

Commissioner Williams offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption,

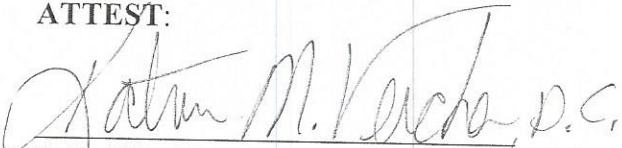
which was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and upon roll call, the vote was:

  4   Ayes

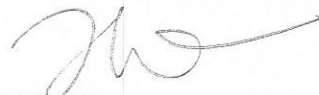
       Nays

  1   Absent and Not Voting

ATTEST:

  
P. DeWitt Cason, Clerk of Courts

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By:   
Toby Witt, Chairman

(SEAL)