

**EMERGENCY ORDER EO 20- 3**

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued **Executive Order Number 20-51** directing the State Health Officer and Surgeon General to declare a Public Health Emergency due to the discovery of COVID-19 in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued **Executive Order Number 20-52** declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a state of emergency for the United States of America effective March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued “15 Days to Slow the Spread” guidance advising individuals to adopt social distancing measures and avoid gatherings of more than ten people; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued **Executive Order Number 20-68** suspending the operation of bars, pubs, and nightclubs, directing parties accessing public beaches to limit gatherings to no more than ten people and practice social distancing, and directing restaurant establishments to limit occupancy to 50%, with a minimum of six feet between patrons and parties of no more than ten; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued **Executive Order Number 20-69** suspending any Florida Statute that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires a local government body to meet in a specific public place, and authorized local government bodies to utilize communication media technology as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, political subdivisions are authorized to declare and enact a local state of emergency for a period of up to seven days, thereby waiving the procedures and formalities otherwise required by law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and Section 37-35, Escambia County Code, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners declared a state of local emergency for Escambia County effective as of 2:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners extended the state of local emergency for Escambia County until 1:59 p.m. on March 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a health risk to the residents of Escambia County, particularly those who are elderly, immunosuppressed, or otherwise have high-risk medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, minimizing contact is necessary to avoid the risk of COVID-19 infection for the residents of Escambia County; and

WHEREAS, the measures implemented herein are narrowly tailored to safely conduct public meetings, protect the residents of Escambia County, and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 37, Escambia County Code, and consistent with **Executive Order Number 20-69**, the Board of County Commissioners hereby declares and establishes the following:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and are incorporated herein.
2. While operating under a state of local emergency, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners or any of its appointed boards or committees may utilize communication media technology (CMT) as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-109, Florida Administrative Code, to conduct public meetings with or without a quorum physically present and provide public access to the proceeding by the use of CMT.
3. Any such meetings conducted utilizing CMT shall be properly noticed and plainly state that such proceeding is to be conducted utilizing CMT and identify the type of CMT to be used. The notice shall describe how interested persons may attend and include, as applicable: 1) the address or addresses of all access points; 2) the address of each access point where an interested person may go to attend the proceeding; 3) an address, email address, and telephone number where an interested person may write or call for additional information; 4) an address, email address, and designated person to whom a person may submit written or other physical evidence. Any evidence, testimony, and argument which is offered utilizing CMT shall be afforded equal consideration as if it were offered in person and shall be subject to

the same objections.

4. The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners may from time to time supplement the minimum procedures provided herein to enable the fair and expeditious conduct of County business but shall at all times comply with **Executive Order Number 20-69** and such other procedures and formalities otherwise required by law.

5. This Order shall be effective upon filing with the Clerk and remain in effect concurrent with the declared state of local emergency in Escambia County, including any extension thereof, or until further action by the Board of County Commissioners.


Adopted this 27<sup>m</sup> day of March, 2020.

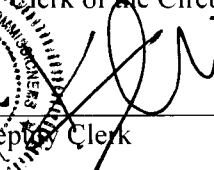

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:   
Steven Barry, Chairman

Date Executed  
3/27/2020

Approved as to form and legal  
sufficiency.

By/Title:   
Date: 3/27/2020

ATTEST: PAM CHILDERS  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
  
Deputy Clerk  
 (SEAL)