

Resolution #2020-07

Resolution Declaring a Local State of Emergency

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised its assessment of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") threat from high to very high and declared a public health emergency of international concern related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and prevention has declared the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 as high, both in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-51, declaring that appropriate measures to control the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Florida are necessary, and therefore directed that a Public Health Emergency be declared in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, under current circumstances, certain people will have an increased risk of infection, for example healthcare, first responders, and emergency medical services workers caring for patients with COVID-19 and other close contacts of persons with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Liberty County Board of County Commissioners to take protective measures - including development of incident action response plans, procurement of personal protective equipment, and pandemic preventative training and exercise coordination, and similar activities to support the public health and safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, provides authority for counties to declare a Local State of Emergency;

BE IT RESOLVED that Liberty County, Florida, is hereby declared to be in a state of emergency,

Due to the rapid escalation of this problem and the requirement for rapid action, publication of notice of this special meeting is not practical. Further, the Board of County Commissioners hereby exercises its authority and waives the proceeding and formalities required by law of political subdivision as provided by Florida Statute s252.38.

While the state of emergency continues to exist, the County shall have the power and authority to carry on those activities set forth in Florida Statutes s252.38, including but not limited to: appropriate and expend fund; make contracts, obtain purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency assistance to the victim of any emergency; and direct and coordinate the development of the emergency management plans and programs in accordance with the plans and policies set forth by the federal state emergency management agencies;


To appoint, employ, remove or provide, with or without compensation, coordinators, rescue teams, fire and police personnel and other emergency management workers;

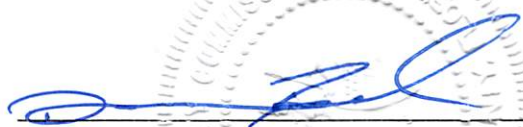
To establish, as necessary, a primary and one or more secondary emergency operating centers to provide continuity of government and direction and control of emergency operations;

To assign and make available for duty to the offices and agencies of the political subdivision, including the employees, property or equipment thereof relating to firefighting, engineering, rescue, health medical and related services for emergency operation purposes, as the primary emergency management forces of the political subdivision for employment within or outside the political limits of the subdivision.

To request state assistance of invoke emergency-related mutual-aid assistance by declaring a state of local emergency, in the event of an emergency effecting only one political subdivision. The duration of this state of local emergency declared locally is limited to 7 days and can be extended as necessary in 7-day increments.

By Special order of the County Commissioners, by a vote of 4 to 0 on the 16 th day of March 2020



Kathleen E. Brown
Clerk of Court

Dewayne Branch
Chairman of the Board

