

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 07

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN REFERENCE TO THE THREAT OF COVID-19; DIRECTING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO IMPLEMENT OKEECHOBEE COUNTY'S INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM TO ADDRESS AND RESOLVE INCIDENTS CAUSED BY THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND TO TAKE ALL PRUDENT ACTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY PURSUANT TO THIS DECLARATION; WAIVING PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES DURING THE PERIOD OF SUCH LOCAL EMERGENCY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order Number 20-51 directing the State Health Office and Surgeon General to declare a Public Health Emergency due to the COVID-19/novel Coronavirus in Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order Number 20-52 declaring a State of Emergency for the state of Florida related to COVID-19/novel Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, notes that safeguarding the life and property of its citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38(3)(a), Florida Statutes, empowers political subdivisions to declare a state of local emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38(3)(a), Florida Statutes, empowers political subdivisions to take certain actions, including the power and authority to assign and make available for duty the officers and agencies of the political subdivision, including the employees, property, or equipment thereof relating to firefighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services, police, transportation, construction, and similar items or services for emergency operations purposes, as the primary emergency management forces of the political subdivision for employment within or outside the political limits of the subdivision; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38(3)(a), Florida Statutes, as well as Section 26-26 of the Okeechobee County Code, empowers the County to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the County by law pertaining to (1) Performance of public work taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure 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 expenditures of public funds; and

WHEREAS, BOCC Resolution 2009-47 directs the use of the National Incident Management System as the county's system of preparing for and responding to disaster incidents, including the use of the Incident Command System to establish an Incident Management Team to address hazards and threats facing the jurisdiction, and a delegation of authority to an Incident Commander: and,

WHEREAS, Okeechobee County has been subjected to the threat of a Global Pandemic, COVID-19 which puts its citizens' lives, health, residences, property and businesses at significant risk and;

WHEREAS, this Pandemic may therefore require expedient action to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, that:

Section 1. Okeechobee County declares a local state of emergency for all of Okeechobee County for a period of 7 days, in connection with the aforementioned global pandemic. Pursuant to Sec. 252.38(3)(a)(5), Fla. Stat., the board may extend the local state of emergency in 7-day increments. In addition, pursuant to Section IV.D.6. of the Okeechobee County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the County Administrator is authorized to extend this local state of emergency, as necessary, in 7-day increments, subject to modification or termination of the local state of emergency by the board.

Section 2. The board appoints the Public Safety Director as the Incident Commander of the Incident Management Team to coordinate the County's response efforts and supporting resources for these threats.

Section 3. The procedures and formalities otherwise required by law pertaining to actions enumerated as 1 thru 8 in the sixth WHEREAS clause hereinabove, are hereby waived for the duration of this declaration.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon execution.

RESOLVED this 19th day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:

Sharon Robertson, Clerk

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Approved as to form and legality:

Wade C. Vose, County Attorney

Terry Burroughs, Chair
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

