

**DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR
COVID-19**

EFFECTIVE MARCH 13, 2020

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida has been informed by its emergency management staff and the Palm Beach County Health Department of the imminent threat posed by the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus is a serious respiratory illness that causes symptoms similar to influenza including fever, difficulty breathing and coughing; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization the COVID-19 virus originated in China however, as of March 12, 2020, there are 125,048 worldwide cases of COVID-19 with 4,613 deaths reported; and

WHEREAS, as of March 11, 2020, the CDC has reported 1,215 cases of the COVID-19 virus in the United States with 36 reported deaths; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the “CDC”), persons at higher risk are older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung disease; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County has a significant population of persons who are over 60 years of age or who have chronic medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, two (2) cases of the COVID-19 virus have been confirmed in Palm Beach County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, there is no current vaccine or drug available to combat COVID-19 and the CDC has predicted likely widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order No. 20-051 establishing a public health emergency in order to direct response to COVID-19 and appointing the Florida Department of Health as the lead state agency to coordinate emergency response activities; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order No. 20-52 declaring a State of Emergency in the State of Florida based on the on-going risk posed by COVID-19 including the fact that at least eight (8) Florida counties have reported positive cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County government and its Division of Emergency Management must take all necessary coordination, preparation and response activities necessitated by the rapidly expanding COVID-19 virus emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 9-35 of the Palm Beach County Code provides that whenever an emergency has placed the citizens of Palm Beach County in danger of loss of life or property, a state of emergency can be declared by the Mayor, the Vice-Mayor in the Mayor's absence, or the County Administrator in the absence of the Mayor and Vice-Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED AND DECLARED:

1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.
2. I am the Mayor of Palm Beach County, Florida.
3. Pursuant to Palm Beach County Code Article II, Section 9-35, a state of local emergency hereby exists in Palm Beach County, Florida, effective **for seven (7) days beginning 2:00 p. m., this thirteenth day of March, 2020.**

4. On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, I hereby waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of Palm Beach County as may be necessary to prevent the hindrance, delay, or prevention of any mitigation, response or recovery action necessary to respond to the COVID-19 emergency pertaining to:

- a. Performance of public work and any other prudent action necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Palm Beach County.
- b. Entering into contracts.
- c. Incurring obligations.
- d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
- e. Utilization of volunteer workers.
- f. Rental of equipment.
- g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities.
- h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

5. The County Administrator or designee, is hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to exercise, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, such emergency powers necessary to carry out the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes and Palm Beach County Code Article II, Section 9-35 to provide for the health and safety of persons and property including, but not limited to, establishing a curfew order, to restrict travel and movement within the county. The emergency restrictions shall be tailored to meet the exigency of the circumstances and can be modified by further order at any time as necessary.

6. This State of Emergency shall extend for a period of 7 days and may be extended as necessary in 7 day increments pursuant to Section 252.38(3)(a)5 by order of the Administrator

or designee, or until further action by the Board of County Commissioners terminates such authority.

7. This Declaration shall be transmitted to the Secretary of State upon adoption and a copy shall be filed with the Clerk of Court.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: 
DAVE KERNER, MAYOR

_____ 2020
Date

**ATTEST
CLERK AND COMPTROLLER**

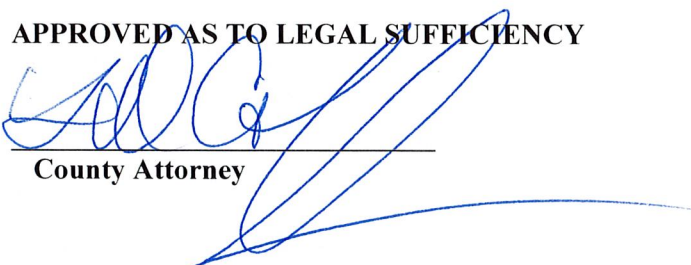
By: _____
Deputy Clerk

_____ 2020
Date

APPROVED AS TO TERMS & CONDITIONS


County Administrator

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY


County Attorney