

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE COVID-19.**

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**WHEREAS**, the Governor, Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-51 on March 1, 2020 which declared a Public Health Emergency in the state of Florida due to the appearance of two individuals testing positive for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) within the state of Florida; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the State Division of Emergency Management contacted Pasco County and requested that Pasco County declare a local state of emergency based on the Pasco County resident that tested presumptively positive for COVID-19 earlier this week; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners believes the declaration of a local State of Emergency is a proactive step in the event additional cases are diagnosed; and

**WHEREAS**, in Pasco County, Florida, one person has tested presumptively positive for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), a serious respiratory illness that causes symptoms similar to influenza including coughing, fever, and shortness of breath; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 constitutes a clear and present threat to the health and welfare of the people of Pasco County; and

**WHEREAS**, Pasco County is threatened by COVID-19 because of the apparent ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, a significant outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has spread to other countries, including the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations Emergency Committee declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern"; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") is recommending that travelers avoid nonessential travel to and from countries designated by the CDC as Level 3, which currently include China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has also warned older travelers and those with chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes to avoid nonessential travel to and from countries designated by the CDC as Level 2, which currently includes Japan, and further warns all travelers to exercise enhanced precautions; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC is predicting that it is "likely" that "widespread transmission" of COVID-19 will occur in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, no vaccine or drug is currently available to combat COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Pasco County residents should follow the recommendations of the CDC, taking commonsense, practical measures such as frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes;

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, provides authority for political subdivisions, such as Pasco County, to declare a State of Local Emergency and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions by law pertaining to:

1. Performance of public work 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. The transfer, amendment, appropriation and/or expenditure of public funds; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County, Florida in special session, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, hereby declares a State of Local Emergency, pursuant to Section 252, Florida Statutes, and Sections 30-29 and 30-30, Pasco County Code of Ordinances, effective immediately for all territory within the legal boundaries of Pasco County, including all unincorporated and incorporated areas, and authorizes the County Administrator or his designee to order curfews, make emergency purchases, or take any other actions he deems necessary. This State of Local Emergency shall be effective upon enactment and shall remain in effect for a seven (7) day period thereafter, unless otherwise rescinded or extended as provided by law. Further, to the extent allowed by law, this declaration retroactively applies to ratify expenditures made and actions taken prior to the effective date of this LSE by county staff in connection with preparations in anticipation of the event.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that those authorities and responsibilities of the Florida

Department of Health and the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County under Section 381.0011, Fla. Stat. are not effected by the Declaration and the County Administrator and Director of Emergency Management are authorized to take all necessary actions to assist the Health Department in the performance of their statutory duties.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by it is expressly authorized that the County Administrator or Pasco County Director of Emergency Management are each delegated the authority to (1) extend this initial declaration of a local state of emergency as many times as necessary, and (2) dissolve this local state of emergency (or any extensions thereof) if the event no longer poses a threat to the lives and/or property of Pasco County residents, or to public property. This delegation of authority to the County Administrator and/or the Pasco County Director of Emergency Management to extend or dissolve this local state of emergency does not require further action by this Board, and is granted whether or not a quorum of the board is able to meet; the procedures set out in sections 30-29 and 30-30 of the Pasco County Code that may be interpreted to be in conflict with this grant of authority are hereby waived.

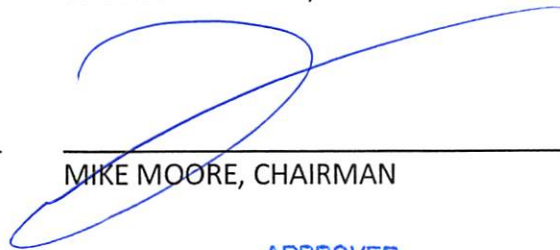
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners that said Board hereby exercises its authority and waives the procedures and formalities required by law of a political subdivision, as provided in Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Sections 30-29 and 30-30, Pasco County Code of Ordinances.

**DONE AND RESOLVED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



  
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NIKKI ALVAREZ-SOWLES, ESQ.  
CLERK & COMPTROLLER

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
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MIKE MOORE, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED  
IN SESSION  
MAR 12 2020  
PASCO COUNTY  
BCC