

WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY NO. 2020-01

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 Wakulla County to take protective measures, including but not limited to development of incident action response plans, procurement of personal protective equipment, 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 and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the County by law or ordinance pertaining to matters including but not limited to the performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, which among other things referenced the authority of counties to declare a local state of emergency pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and to take such actions as are authorized thereunder; and

WHEREAS, Section 11.5.036, Wakulla County Code of Ordinances, provides that when a quorum of the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is unable to meet, the Chairperson of the Board, or the Vice-Chairperson in the Chair's absence, or their designee, is authorized to declare a local state of emergency whenever that person shall determine that a natural, technological, or manmade disaster or emergency has occurred or that the occurrence or threat of one is imminent and requires immediate and expeditious action; and

WHEREAS, based upon the high threat to public health and safety posed by COVID-19 and the latest available information and guidance from governmental entities and health organizations regarding the avoidance of public gatherings, a quorum of the Board is currently unable to meet and the Chairperson, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson is authorized to declare a local state of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Section 1. Declaration of Local State of Emergency. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) poses a serious threat to the health of the residents and guests of Wakulla County. A Local State of Emergency is declared effective immediately. The Local State of Emergency will remain in effect within the legal boundaries of Wakulla County, Florida for seven (7) days from the date hereof and may be extended as necessary in seven (7) day increments.

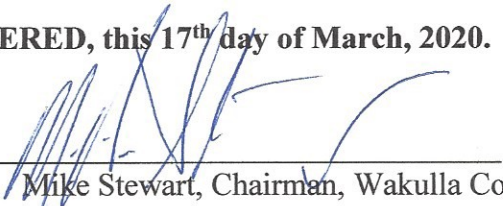
Section 2. Emergency Activities; Waiver of Procedures and Formalities Otherwise Required. Due to the Local State of Emergency, effective immediately, the County Administrator, or his designee(s), is hereby authorized to exercise all powers described in Section 11.5.039 of the Wakulla County Code of Ordinances, and the procedures and formalities required of the County by law or ordinance are hereby waived as they pertain to:

- (a) Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community;
- (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; and
- (h) Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

Section 3. Alterations or Rescission. This Declaration of a Local State of Emergency may be altered or rescinded either by the issuance of a subsequent Order or by an appropriate Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

ORDERED, this 17th day of March, 2020.

By: _____


Mike Stewart, Chairman, Wakulla County
Board of County Commissioners