

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

EMERGENCY ORDER 2020 - 03

AN EMERGENCY ORDER ISSUED BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, IMPOSING A BURN BAN IN BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.38, *FLORIDA STATUTES*, AND THE PROCLAMATION, DATED MARCH 17, 2020, DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe respiratory illness that appears to occur through respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a public health emergency of international concern related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared that a public health emergency exists nationwide as a result of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued *Executive Order 20-51*, the terms of which are incorporated herein, 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, on March 2, 2020, the State of Florida Surgeon General and State Health Officer, by virtue of the Governor's *Executive Order 20-51* and Section 381.00315, *Florida Statutes*, issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency declaring that a public health emergency exists in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis directed the Director of the Division of Emergency Management to activate the State Emergency Operations Center to Level 2 to provide coordination and response to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued *Executive Order 20-52*, the terms of which are incorporated herein, declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida to address the public health emergency caused by the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 13, 2020, COVID-19 has spread throughout the United States and thousands of people have tested positive in many states including the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency due to the spread of COVID-19 throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, given the foregoing, Bradford County Emergency Management Director Lt. Raymond Shuford issued a proclamation declaring a state of local emergency in Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 23, 2020, the State of Florida, Department of Health determined that an individual resident of Bradford County, Florida tested positive for COVID-19; representing the first confirmed case of the disease in Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases of COVID-19 in the United States, the State of Florida and other Florida counties continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 represents a threat to the public health, safety and welfare of Bradford County residents, employees and visitors; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this proclamation, said *Executive Order 20-51* and said *Executive Order 20-52* continue in effect; placing all of Florida's 67 counties under a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, *Florida Statutes*, states that "safeguarding the life and property of [the County's] citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision

of the state” and further grants to the County the power to provide for the health and safety of persons and property and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the County pertaining to taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, a review of all relevant factors, including the information outlined herein, indicates that the effects of COVID-19 do and will continue to pose a severe threat to the entire State of Florida and specifically to Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the current and ongoing threat associated with the effects of COVID-19 requires that timely precautions be taken to protect the community, critical infrastructure and general welfare of Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing threat of the effects COVID-19 represents a severe and immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, said severe and immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Bradford County represents a true and active emergency; and

WHEREAS, given the above and foregoing, the it is crucial for the public safety and welfare that law enforcement, police, fire, emergency medical services and other first responders and emergency service providers be available for medical and other, bona fide emergency calls during this time, as opposed to responding to brush fires and other emergencies which are based upon entirely preventable circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the burning of leaves, yard waste, vegetative material, trash and/or other debris can necessitate an emergency response diverting otherwise crucial first responder and emergency services resources; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted by Chapter 26, *Bradford County Code*, Chapter 252, *Florida Statutes*, and further pursuant to the authority provided in *Executive Order 20-51*

and *Executive Order 20-52*, and further pursuant to the authority provided by the Proclamation, dated March 17, 2020, declaring a state of local emergency in Bradford County, Florida and for the aforementioned and above-outlined reasons, the undersigned, LT. RAYMOND SHUFORD hereby:

- (1) Imposes a burn ban in the entirety of Bradford County, Florida;
- (2) Prohibits the burning of leaves, yard waste, vegetative material, trash and/or other debris for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency and for the duration of the related declared state of local emergency in Bradford County, Florida, including as the same may be extended;
- (3) Exempts from said burn ban the use of contained grills or griddles used for preparing food on a private, personal or commercial basis;
- (4) Further exempts from said burn ban any activity which:
 - (A) Has been approved by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) based upon a determination by the local FFS representative that such activity can be safely accomplished; and
 - (B) Which is conducted by an individual or entity who is a certified burner as designated by FFS; and
- (5) Declares that any person, firm, partnership or corporation violating the provisions of this Emergency Order, unless an exemption from this burn ban has been approved or granted by the Florida Forest Service as outlined herein, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in Chapter 775.083, *Florida Statutes*, or, in the case of individuals, the members of a partnership and the responsible officers and agents of an association or corporation, punishable as provided in Section 775.082 or Section 775.083, *Florida Statutes*.

DULY PROCLAIMED by the Emergency Management Director of Bradford County,
Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA



By: LT. RAYMOND SHUFORD, as its
Emergency Management Director

03/25/2020 / 1700 Hours

DATE / TIME