



EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 2020-02

Emergency Order Authorizing Continuing All Quasi-Judicial Hearings until the Expiration of Local State of Emergency

WHEREAS, Hernando County is under Federal, State, and Local States of Emergency for the COVID-19 virus pursuant to Executive Orders of the Governor for the State of Florida (EO Nos. 20-51 and 20-52) and the Hernando County Proclamation dated March 19, 2020 and renewed every seven days thereafter in accordance with law; and,

WHEREAS, Hernando County's Proclamation, in accordance with Fla. Stat. Chapter 252, and Hernando County Code § 21-205, authorizes the County to take all necessary action and issue any necessary orders to protect human health and safety; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") currently recommends mitigation measures in communities with COVID-19 cases including no meetings, events, or gatherings with ten (10) or more people, staying at home when sick, keeping away from others who are sick, and staying at home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms or if instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider; and,

WHEREAS, to curtail the spread of the virus, the Governor has issued an Executive Order (EO 20-91) directing "[l]ocal jurisdictions [to] ensure that groups of people greater than ten are not permitted to congregate in any public space."; and,

WHEREAS, the ability to conduct public business in accordance with Florida's Sunshine Law at open public meetings is currently severely hampered; and

WHEREAS, formerly routine processes are disrupted and taking longer to accomplish due to Coronavirus precautions being mandated by the Federal and State Governments.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Findings. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein.

Section 2. Continuation of Quasi-Judicial Hearings. All quasi-judicial hearings scheduled to be heard by the Board of County Commissioners, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Hernando County Special Master are hereby continued, to be reset following the expiration of the present Local State of Emergency. To the extent that such a hearing must be requested by a date certain, the applicable deadline is hereby tolled during the pendency of the present Local State of Emergency.


Section 3. Additional Considerations. This Executive Order does not apply to items within Hernando County's internal review processes.

Section 4. Effective Date and Termination. This Emergency Order will take effect upon filing with the Clerk of Courts of Hernando County in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 252.46(2) and shall remain in effect until modified or terminated by subsequent order or until the Executive Order 20-91 expires or is rescinded.

DONE AND ORDERED, this ____ day of April 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Attested:



DOUGLAS A. CHORVAT, JR.
CLERK OF COURT AND
COMPTROLLER

By:



JOHN MITTEN
CHAIRMAN

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency

By: 

County Attorney's Office