

DECLARATION EXTENDING STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY 20-01

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization previously declared Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, On March 9, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order Number 20-52 declaring a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Polk County has confirmed cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, according to studies of the National Institutes of Health, CDC, UCLA and Princeton University scientists, the virus that causes COVID-19 is stable for several hours to days in aerosols and on surfaces; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, pursuant to Polk County Ordinance 19-074, Declaration of State of Local Emergency 20-01 was issued to address the anticipated impact of COVID-19 on Polk County; and

WHEREAS, conditions continue to exist requiring the extension of Declaration of State of Local of Emergency 20-01 because of the propensity of the virus to spread person to person and because the virus physically is causing property damage due to its proclivity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074 AND SECTION 252.38(3)(a)(5), FLORIDA STATUTES, STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY 20-01 DECLARED ON MARCH 16, 2020, WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES OF POLK COUNTY, INCLUDING BOTH THE INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY, AND ENCOMPASSES THE EMERGENCY IDENTIFIED AS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) IS HEREBY EXTENDED.

ACCORDINGLY , THE COUNTY MAY EVOKE ALL OF THE POWERS AS OUTLINED IN CHAPTER 252 FLORIDA STATUTES, POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074 OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW.

FURTHERMORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074 AND OTHER APPLICABLE COUNTY ORDINANCES AND STATE LAWS, THE COUNTY MANAGER OF POLK COUNTY AND HIS DESIGNEE(S) ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE EMERGENCY MEASURES INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION:

1. Utilize all available resources of the County government as reasonably necessary to cope with the emergency;
2. Make provisions for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing and the emergency warehousing of materials;

3. Acquire merchandise, equipment, vehicles or property needed to alleviate the emergency;
4. Issuing any order that is necessary for the protection of the public safety, health, and general welfare; and
5. Suspend the provisions of any ordinance, rule, or policy prescribing the procedure for conduct of County business, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such ordinance, rule, or policy would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

FURTHER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §252.38, FLORIDA STATUTES AND POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074, THE COUNTY HEREBY WAIVES THE PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES OTHERWISE REQUIRED OF THE COUNTY BY LAW PERTAINING TO:

1. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent 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. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

PURSUANT TO POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074 THIS EXTENSION OF THE DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY SHALL EXPIRE WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS UNLESS EXTENDED, AS NECESSARY, IN 7-DAY INCREMENTS.

DATED this 20th day of April 2020.

ATTEST:

STACY M. BUTTERFIELD, CLERK

By: *Stacy M. Butterfield*
Deputy Clerk

POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: *Bill Beasley*
Bill Beasley, County Manager

