

WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY NO. 2020-04

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is an infectious acute respiratory illness capable of spreading rapidly among humans, which presents symptoms similar to those of influenza and is capable of causing severe illness and death; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as of March 30, 2020 at 11 a.m. EST, there are 5,473 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Florida, with an unknown number of persons awaiting testing or awaiting testing results; 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, 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 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, provides authority for counties to declare a local state of emergency for up to seven (7) days, as may be extended in subsequent seven (7) day increments, 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, it is the duty of Wakulla County (“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, on March 17, 2020, the County declared a Local State of Emergency within the boundaries of the County, the duration of which has been extended by subsequent declarations; 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 of more than ten (10) people, 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 or extend a local state of emergency that was previously declared.

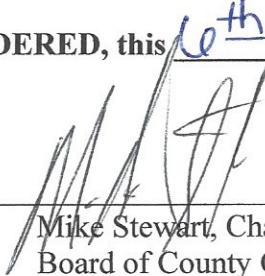
NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Section 1. Extension of Local State of Emergency. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) poses a serious threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and guests of Wakulla County. The Local State of Emergency originally declared on March 17, 2020, and the provisions contained therein and in any subsequent extension of the declaration of Local State of Emergency, is hereby extended and 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 additional seven (7) day increments.

Section 2. 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 16th day of April, 2020.

By: _____


Mike Stewart, Chairman, Wakulla County
Board of County Commissioners