

WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Board of County Commissioners

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RESOLUTION 2020-10

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County is empowered by Chapter 252 of the Florida Statutes to declare a state of local emergency;

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and other potential methods, and presents symptoms similar to those of influenza;

WHEREAS, conditions exist requiring the extension of the initial declaration of a state of local emergency because of the propensity of the novel coronavirus to spread person to person and also because the novel coronavirus physically is causing property damage due to its proclivity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time;

WHEREAS, in December of 2019, a new and substantial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has since spread rapidly throughout the world, including the United States, and more specifically Walton County and other Counties in the State of Florida;

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

WHEREAS, the Center 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, a National State of Emergency was declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, a State of Emergency for the State of Florida was declared by the Governor by Executive Order 20-51 (March 1, 2020), 20-52 (March 9, 2020), and 20-68 (March 17, 2020), authorizing in accordance with Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, each political subdivision within the State to "waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the political subdivision by law pertaining to... [the] (p)erformance of public work and taking whatever prudent action to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;

WHEREAS, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners declared a Local State of Emergency on March 16, 2020, which was extended on March 24, 2020 and March 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, positive cases of COVID-19 have continued to rise in other states in close proximity to Florida resulting in increased risk to counties in northern Florida, including Walton County;

WHEREAS, Florida, including Walton County, has and continues to experience many thousands of people fleeing to Florida from out-of-state locations where “shelter-in-place” orders are being implemented and where substantial community spread of COVID-19 exists, thereby jeopardizing the health and safety of Floridians, including residents of Walton County;

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-86, requiring all individuals that drive into Florida from states with substantial community spread to self-isolate in Florida for fourteen (14) days or the duration of their trip, whichever is shorter;

WHEREAS, persistent interstate travel continues to pose a risk to the entire state of Florida, including Walton County;

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-91 which ordered all persons in Florida to limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities;

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-68 which states that the Governor “support[s] beach closures at the discretion of local authorities.”

WHEREAS, in 2019 Walton County saw over 4.3 million (4,305,700) visitors come to Walton County, 82-percent of whom drive to the destination, with 91-percent of all visitors citing the beach as a top activity, and the busiest months for tourism in Walton County (March-July) coincide with the actual and anticipated rise and spread of COVID-19 in the United States;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners adopted Emergency Ordinance 2020-08 closing the beaches of Walton County to the public and on April 2, 2020, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners adopted Emergency Ordinance 2020-09 closing all beaches, public or private, in Walton County, Florida, in an effort to remain consistent with the Governor’s Executive Orders 20-80, 20-82, 20-86 & 20-87 to dissuade persistent interstate travel into Walton County, Florida;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Walton County to take protective measures - including activation of the emergency operation center, procurement of personal protective

equipment, consequence management, and similar activities to support the public health and safety of the community;

WHEREAS, Walton County is encountering an impending serious threat to the health of the residents and visitors of Walton County;

WHEREAS, Walton County began implementing preparations to address the serious public health threat on January 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, certain specialized equipment and personnel may be required to adequately respond to the needs of its citizens;

WHEREAS, other measures may have to be taken in order to mitigate the potential for causing further threatening conditions within the County;

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled, and that residents and visitors in Florida remain safe and secure;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County resolves that it is necessary to declare a state of emergency from 2:30pm (C.D.T.) April 7, 2020 and ending on April 14, 2020, at 2:30pm (C.D.T.) because the County will be impacted to such an extent that resources from the State will be needed to assist with the emergency response and recovery, and the County also needs all the powers available to a County under a State of Emergency declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County, Florida, does hereby proclaim:

1. That a local state of emergency exists in Walton County, Florida, from 2:30pm (C.D.T.) April 7, 2020 and ending on April 14, 2020, at 2:30pm (C.D.T.) due to the global COVID-19 pandemic;
2. That the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County, Florida, hereby enlists the aid of the Honorable Governor of the State of Florida, the State Cabinet, and our Federal Representatives in Washington, D.C., for assistance in its time of need; and
3. That pursuant to Section 252.38(3), Florida Statutes (2015), during this State of Emergency, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners hereby waives the procedures and formalities otherwise required of Walton County by law pertaining to:
 - a. Performance of public works, 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,

to the extent necessary to carry out County functions necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community and to protect lives and property.

- 4. All permits for vending on the beach shall be suspended and no vending on the beach shall be permitted while this Local State of Emergency remains in effect.
- 5. All beaches within Walton County, Florida, are temporarily closed and it shall be unlawful for any person to enter upon or remain on the beaches within Walton County, Florida.
- 6. That this local State of Emergency shall exist and remain in effect from 2:30pm (C.D.T.), April 7, 2020, to April 14, 2020, at 2:30pm (C.D.T.).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County, Florida, has caused this resolution to be enacted and executed on this 7 day April, 2020.

ATTEST:

Don Cordle
Alex Alford, Clerk of Circuit Court
And County Comptroller



W.N. "Bill" Chapman

W.N. "Bill" Chapman, Chair
WALTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
(or his designee authorized pursuant to
Walton County's Emergency
Management Plan)