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RESOLUTION NO. 2020-46

EMERGENCY ORDER PROVIDING GUIDANCE FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, Emergency Management governs Local Emergencies;
and

WHEREAS, Lake County ("County") is currently under a State of Emergency pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-51, as declared by Governor DeSantis on March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-29, dated March 16, 2020, of the Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Florida, declared a local state of emergency in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-30, dated March 23, 2020, of the Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Florida, extended the local state of emergency for an additional seven (7) days due to the ongoing health threat to those within the County related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-83 to reinforce the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") guidelines implemented as part of the "15 Days to Slow the Spread" initiative; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to pose an imminent health hazard and an increased risk of infection to residents of the County and healthcare, first responders, and emergency medical service workers caring for patients with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have consistently recommended avoiding close physical interaction between people to slow the spread of COVID-19, and the CDC has updated and further restricted its distancing guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has stated that older adults and people of any age with significant underlying medical conditions are particularly at risk for severe illness or death from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners executed Resolution 2020-33 for purposes of establishing social distancing requirements for businesses; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners executed Resolution 2020-34 and later amended on April 2, 2020, in Resolution 2020-35 for purposes of addressing social distancing requirements for service providers and childcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-91 on April 1, 2020, that orders senior citizens and others with significant underlying medical conditions to stay at home. This Executive Order also directed that all persons shall limit their movements and personal interactions to only those necessary to obtain or provide either essential services or essential activities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order Number 20-91 defines essential activities to include attending
2 religious services; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Florida, has
4 determined that it is necessary to issue this Emergency Order to: protect the health and safety of the residents
5 and visitors of Lake County, Florida; to assist the healthcare delivery system in its ability to serve those
6 persons infected by COVID-19; to prevent community spread of this deadly disease; and to preserve the
7 public's access to essential services and maintain the operation of critical infrastructure.

8 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners
9 of Lake County, Florida, that:

10 **Section 1. Religious Services.**

- 11 1. Religious services held in churches, synagogues and houses of worship are considered
12 essential activities rather than essential services, and as such, are not subject to the
13 requirements or penalties set forth in Lake County Resolution 2020-33 as amended by
14 Resolutions 2020-34 and 2020-35 which address retail establishments, essential service
15 providers, social and recreational gatherings, and daycare facilities.
- 16 2. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order Number 20-91, residents who are 65 and older,
17 or people of any age who have significant underlying medical conditions, shall stay home;
18 but if they choose to leave their home for purposes of engaging in religious services, they are
19 hereby advised they are putting themselves at risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus.
- 20 3. Those who are conducting religious services should encourage their members who are 65
21 and older, or people of any age who have significant underlying medical conditions, to stay
22 home otherwise it places their members in these categories at risk of contracting the COVID-
23 19 virus.
- 24 4. Those who are conducting religious services are hereby urged to hold such services in one of
25 the following ways:
 - 26 a. Via electronic means such as Facebook Live, YouTube, Zoom, or other similar
27 platforms; or
 - 28 b. Drive-in services so that people can remain in their vehicles.
- 29 5. Religious leaders who decide to conduct religious services have a responsibility to protect
30 the members of their congregations by implementing all CDC guidelines for social
31 distancing and reinforcing the importance of hand washing and use of hand sanitizers.
- 32 6. Any person who is exhibiting symptoms or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or who
33 has interacted with a person exhibiting symptoms, or who has been diagnosed with COVID-

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19, must stay home in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Number 20-91.
7. Anyone who decides to participate in religious services is hereby urged to follow all CDC guidelines including social distancing and repeated hand washing or use of hand sanitizers.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect upon signature and shall remain in effect throughout the Local State of Emergency, unless earlier rescinded.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this day 2nd of April, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Leslie Campione
Leslie Campione, Chairman

This 2nd day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Gary J. Cooney, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
of Lake County, Florida



Approved as to form and legality:

[Signature]
Melanie Marsh, County Attorney