

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

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PROCLAMATION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

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A PROCLAMATION BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19); AND AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 252.38(3)(a)(5), *FLORIDA STATUTES*.

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe respiratory illness that appears to occur through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a public health emergency of international concern related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared that a public health emergency exists nationwide as a result of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, as of February 29, 2020, COVID-19 spread throughout China and to 67 other countries and territories including hundreds of cases within the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all states and territories implement aggressive measures to slow and contain transmission of COVID-19 in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued *Executive Order 20-51*, the terms of which are incorporated herein, 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 2, 2020, the State of Florida Surgeon General and State Health Officer, by virtue of the Governor's *Executive Order 20-51* and Section 381.00315, *Florida Statutes*, issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency declaring that a public health emergency exists in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis directed the Director of the Division of Emergency Management to activate the State Emergency Operations Center to Level 2 to provide coordination and response to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued *Executive Order 20-52*, the terms of which are incorporated herein, declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida to address the public health emergency caused by the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 13, 2020, COVID-19 has spread throughout the United States and thousands of people have tested positive in many states including the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency due to the spread of COVID-19 throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a threat to the public health, safety and welfare of Union County residents, employees and visitors; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this proclamation, said *Executive Order 20-51* and said *Executive Order 20-52* continue in effect; placing all of Florida's 67 counties under a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, *Florida Statutes*, states that "safeguarding the life and property of [the County's] citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state" and further grants to the County the power to provide for the health and safety of persons and property and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the County pertaining to taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, a review of all relevant factors, including the information outlined herein, indicates that the effects of COVID-19 do and will continue to pose a severe threat to the entire State of Florida and specifically to Union County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the current and ongoing threat associated with the effects of COVID-19 requires that timely precautions be taken to protect the community, critical infrastructure and general welfare of Union County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing threat of the effects COVID-19 represents a severe and immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Union County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, said severe and immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Union County represents a true and active emergency; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of a local state of emergency under these conditions is determined to be in the best interest of Union County and its citizens.

WHEREAS, in order to be in position to provide the most effective assistance to the citizens of Union County, it is necessary that a declaration of an emergency is passed; and

WHEREAS, *Chapter 252.38(3), F. S.* provides authority for a political subdivision such as Union County to declare a Local State of Emergency and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions by law pertaining to:

- To appropriate and expend funds; make contracts; obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency management purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency assistance to the victims of any emergency.
- To appoint, employ, remove, or provide, with or without compensation, coordinators, fire and police personnel, and other emergency management workers.
- To assign and make available for duty the offices and agencies of the political subdivision, including the employees, property, or equipment thereof relating to firefighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services, police, transportation, construction, and similar items or services for emergency operation purposes, as the primary emergency management forces of the political subdivision for employment within or outside the political limits of the subdivision.
- The duration of each state of emergency declared locally is limited to 7 days; it may be extended, as necessary, in 7-day increments. Further, the political subdivision has the power and authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the political subdivision by law pertaining to:

- a. 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
- h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted by *Union County Code*, and Chapter 252, *Florida Statutes*, and further pursuant to the authority provided in *Executive Order 20-51* and *Executive Order 20-52*, for the aforementioned and above-outlined reasons, the undersigned, EM Director Timothy C. Allen hereby (1) declares and proclaims a local state of emergency in Union County, Florida, for the period commencing at 0800 on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and continuing through 0800 on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020; and (2) activates the *Union County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and authorize the utilization of the emergency powers provided under Sections 252.31 through 252.62, *Florida Statutes*.

DULY PROCLAIMED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020 by the Emergency Management Director of Union County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Timothy C. Allen, as its  
Emergency Management Director

10/13/20 0800  
DATE / TIME