

**R-24-198**

**MANATEE COUNTY DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY  
RELATIVE TO POTENTIAL TROPICAL LOW**

**WHEREAS**, safeguarding the lives and property of its citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Manatee County's Director of Public Safety, the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management, and the National Weather Service have recognized the danger to Manatee County residents, visitors, and business owners from potential severe weather of Potential Tropical Low; and

**WHEREAS**, Manatee County has areas vulnerable to the negative impacts of severe weather; and

**WHEREAS**, meteorological forecasts cannot predict with absolute certainty the location or severity of severe weather resulting in hazardous impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, any severe weather can result in injuries, damage to public and private property, and may result in first responders and government agencies intervening to protect lives, property, and the environment and to reduce impacts to utilities, public buildings, communication systems, transportation systems, and infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, Potential Tropical Low poses an imminent threat of a disaster emergency as defined in the County's Disaster Emergency Management Powers Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, the nature of the disaster emergency is the imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from Potential Tropical Low and its potential effects, which may include, but may not be limited to, prolonged heavy rainfall causing flash flooding, river flooding, coastal flooding, erosion, and gusty winds; and

**WHEREAS**, the area of the County threatened by this imminent disaster emergency include all unincorporated and incorporated areas of Manatee County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions which have brought Potential Tropical Low about include highly conducive environmental conditions including warm water temperatures and high moisture content in the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, provides for the establishment of a local emergency management agency, the appointment of a director thereof, the power and authority thereof, and the power and authority of the Board of County Commissioners in emergency situations; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and Manatee County's Disaster Emergency Management Powers Ordinance, codified as Article II, Chapter 2-13 of the Manatee County Code of Ordinances, and as amended by Ordinance 24-82, adopted August 27, 2024, provide authority for Manatee County to declare a state of local emergency and to exercise the power and authority to carry out the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, including the authority to waive procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions by law.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ordinance 24-82, if the Director of Public Safety determines that there exists a disaster emergency and finds that a quorum of the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, (Board) cannot be attained within a reasonable time to take needed action, the authority to declare a state of local emergency is delegated to the Chairperson of the Board or, if the Chairperson of the Board is unavailable, then to the highest ranking Vice Chair of the Board that is available, or, if the Chairperson of the Board and all Vice-Chair are unavailable, then to the County Administrator; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Public Safety has determined that there exists a disaster emergency relative to Potential Tropical Low; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Public Safety has found that a quorum of the Board cannot be attained within a reasonable time to take needed action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chairperson of the Board is unavailable.

**NOW THEREFORE**, as the highest ranking Vice Chair of the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, and in accordance with Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and the authority granted to me by Manatee County's Disaster Emergency Management Powers Ordinance, codified as Article II, Chapter 2-13 of the Manatee County Code of Ordinances, and as amended by Ordinance 24-82, adopted August 27, 2024, I hereby declare a State of Local Emergency, effective immediately, for all territory within the legal boundaries of Manatee County, including all unincorporated and incorporated areas.

Pursuant to this declaration, I hereby waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required by law pertaining to:

- a. Performance of public work 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.

Pursuant to this declaration, I hereby delegate to the Director of Public Safety the authority to discharge the duties and exercise the powers specified in the County's Disaster Emergency Management Powers Ordinance, until such time as the State of Local Emergency declared herein expires, is terminated, or seven days from this date, whichever is sooner.

Pursuant to this declaration, I hereby delegate to the Public Safety Director the authority to implement disaster emergency plans, agreements, and supporting documents in accordance with the County's Disaster Emergency Management Powers Ordinance.

Pursuant to this declaration, I hereby authorize the County Administrator to waive the associated landfill tipping fees during the duration of this local state of emergency to ensure public safety.



By: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*

Amanda Ballard, Vice-Chairperson of  
the Board of County Commissioners of  
Manatee County, Florida

*10/4/24*

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*

Deputy Clerk