

RESOLUTION NO. R-20-045

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (“COVID-19”).

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is an infectious disease caused by a new virus that has not been previously identified in humans, which causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever and in more severe cases, pneumonia; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) raised its assessment of the COVID-19 threat from high to very high and declared a public health emergency of international concern related to COVID-19 on January 30, 2020; 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, as of March 23, 2020, at least fifteen people in Manatee County have tested positive for COVID-19, with at least one death, and additional confirmed cases have been reported in neighboring counties, including Sarasota, Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties; and

WHEREAS, under the current circumstances, certain people will have an increased risk of infection, such as healthcare workers, first responders, and emergency medical services workers caring for patients with COVID-19 and others who have close contact with persons with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Manatee 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 2, 2020, Manatee County began to take protective measures in response to the imminent threat to the public health, safety and welfare presented by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, prescribes 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 252.46, Florida Statutes, and Article II of Chapter 2-13 of the Manatee County Code, authorize the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee

County, Florida to declare a state of local emergency and to exercise emergency powers and authority to carry out the provisions of Sections 252.31 through 252.90, Florida Statutes, including the authority to waive procedures and formalities otherwise required by law pertaining to:

1. Performance of public work and taking whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;
2. Entering into contracts;
3. Incurring obligations;
4. Employment of permanent and temporary workers;
5. Utilization of volunteer workers;
6. Rental of equipment;
7. Acquisition and distribution of supplies, materials, and facilities with or without compensation; and
8. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County initially declared a State of Local Emergency on March 16, 2020, pursuant to Resolution No. 20-041; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-69, suspending any requirement for the physical presence of County Commissioners in order to obtain a meeting quorum.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, in emergency session, this 24th day of March, 2020, that:

1. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) poses an imminent threat of a disaster emergency and that a State of Local Emergency is hereby declared, effective immediately for all territory within the legal boundaries of Manatee County, including all unincorporated and incorporated areas, in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare.
2. The Board of County Commissioners hereby waives procedures and formalities required by law of a political subdivision, as authorized by Section 252.38(3), Florida Statutes, and Section 2-13-17 of the Manatee County Code.
3. The Board of County Commissioners hereby delegates to the Director of Public Safety the authority to discharge the duties and exercise the powers specified in Section 2-13-19 of the Manatee County Code, until such time as the Local Emergency declared herein is terminated or expired or seven

(7) days from the effective date of this Resolution, whichever is sooner. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Chairperson (or in her absence, any vice-chairperson) of the Board of County Commissioners, after consultation with the Director of Public Safety (or in his absence, the Emergency Management Officer) is empowered to extend the period of the Local Emergency declared herein in seven (7) day increments, by memorandum, with ratifications in any event by the Board of County Commissioners as soon as is practicable at a regular or special meeting.

4. The Board of County Commissioners hereby delegates to the Director of Public Safety the authority to implement disaster emergency plans, agreements, and supporting documents in accordance with Section 2-13-15 of the Manatee County Code.
5. During the period of the Local Emergency declared herein, the County Administrator, County Attorney and the Clerk of Court are authorized to exercise all powers delegated to them pursuant to Resolution No. R-09-161.
6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 2nd day of March, 2020.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: 
Chairperson

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

By: 
Deputy Clerk