EMERGENCY ORDER 2024-10
DECLARATION OF STATE OF GENERAL EMERGENCY
TROPICAL STORM MILTON

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County has been informed by its emergency management staff that the National Weather Service has stated that the National Weather Service is currently tracking Tropical Storm Milton which has the potential to threaten or through its effects impact Alachua County; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has issued Executive Order number 214 authorizing certain political subdivisions in the State of Florida, to waive certain procedures and formalities required of political subdivisions which was amended by Executive Order number 215 to include Alachua County; and,

WHEREAS, Executive Order numbers 214 and 215 also find that due to the effects of Hurricane Helene the water tables and riverine levels across North Florida remain above normal and the additional incoming heavy rainfall will likely cause significant riverine flooding for an extended period of time, and

WHEREAS, based upon these and other findings, Governor Ron DeSantis has declared a state of emergency across several counties in Florida including Alachua County and has authorized the political subdivisions to undertake those powers authorized under Sec. 252.38(2), Florida Statutes, and

WHEREAS, Alachua County is still suffering from the impacts of Hurricane Helene for which the Governor issued Executive Order 24-213 and for which the County has extended its local state of emergency most recently under Emergency Order 24-09, and

WHEREAS, weather effects from Tropical Storm Milton could reach Alachua County as early as Wednesday October 9th. The storm is predicted to develop into a major hurricane prior to landfall. It is predicted that associated weather could result in severe rain and flooding. This storm has the potential to cause widespread damage across Alachua County to government and personal property, impact the roadways, disrupt utilities and County operations, cause flooding, therefore this event has the capacity to

pose a significant, imminent, and dangerous threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of Alachua County, Florida, including visitors and tourists, as well as their real and personal property; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Milton meets the definition of weather event in Sec. 252.38 (4) and its impact on the authority of political subdivisions on enacting emergency orders in response to a weather event; and

WHEREAS, according to Alachua County Code §27.07(4), the Chair of the Board is designated as the Official Authority in the absence of a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. The timing of the potential impact of the effects of Tropical Storm Milton an emergency meeting of the Board is not practicable; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Alachua County Code Section §27.07, the Chair as the Official Authority hereby resolves, finds, and declares:

1. The above recitals are true.

2. A state of general emergency hereby exists in Alachua County, Florida, effective for seven (7) days beginning at 2:30 p.m., eastern daylight time, on this 6 day of October, 2024.

3. The procedures and formalities otherwise required of Alachua County pertaining to the following are waived:

    a. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to insure 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.

4. The County Manager, or her designee is hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to exercise, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, such emergency powers necessary to carry out the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, including, but not limited to, the powers to declaring curfews or limiting assembly in any part of the County as necessary upon proper findings in order to reduce the vulnerability of people in communities of Alachua County to damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from the imminent threat, as well as any other powers expressly or implicitly conferred pursuant to Chapters 125 and 252, Florida Statutes, including all emergency declarations of the Governor and any other provision of law or county ordinance.

5. Authority granted by this Order shall extend for the period of the state of general emergency, until it expires or is revoked. This Order is independent of any Order issued for Hurricane Helene.

This Order shall be transmitted to the Alachua County Clerk of Court upon entry.

Issued this 6 day of October 2024, at 2:15 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____

Mary C. Alford, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM
County Attorney's Office

_____

Office of County Attorney