

PROCLAMATION 20-01
DECLARATION OF STATE OF GENERAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has issued Executive Order 20-51 declaring a public health emergency as the result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, as the virus spread Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a general state of emergency in all the counties of the state; and,

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has declared a National State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has determined that the COVID-19 virus is a global pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, there is no vaccine to prevent the spread of the virus and the virus has the potential to overwhelm the healthcare system unless the transmission of the virus is reduced by limiting the opportunities for the virus to be spread from person to person; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease control have issued certain guidance restricting the size of gatherings and such guidance continues to change on a rapid basis; and,

WHEREAS, as of March 15th, the United States has 3,244 Confirmed cases and 62 deaths. The State of Florida has 115 confirmed cases and 4 deaths. At present Alachua County is known to have 4 confirmed cases; and,

WHEREAS, the number of suspected and diagnosed cases in the State of Florida and specifically Alachua County is expected to climb; and,

WHEREAS, a major contributor to the spread of the virus is through transmittal by way of travel and Interstate 75 and U.S. Highways 441 and 301 all have a major presence within Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health is the lead agency in events such as this, it may become necessary to use the County's emergency powers to assist the Department of Health or to take actions to prepare for an extended presence of the virus in Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, the full Board of County Commissioners is not available to consider a declaration of emergency; and

NOW THEREFORE, to Alachua County Code Section §27.07, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners sitting 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 1:04 p.m. eastern daylight time, this 16th day of March 2020.
3. The Sheriff of Alachua County is hereby designated the chief law enforcement official of the County, such grant of authority being supplemental to her authority under Chapter 30, Florida Statutes
4. The Board of County Commissioners hereby waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of Alachua County pertaining to:
 - 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.
 - i. The specific limits on the authority of the County manager to expend funds and enter into agreements.
5. 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 Alachua County as necessary if such action is deemed necessary 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, and any other provision of law or county ordinance.
6. This authority shall extend for the period of the state of general emergency, as determined by the County Manager or her designee, or until further action by the Board of County Commissioners terminates such authority or declares that the state of general emergency has ended.
7. During the pendency of this emergency and for so long as it is recommended to limit public gatherings, the Board of County Commissioners may meet using technological methods which would allow them to appear via remote means and for the public to appear and participate remotely.
8. This state of emergency shall extend throughout the geographic confines of Alachua County included the incorporated municipalities. Pursuant to Sec. 252.38(2), the Municipalities shall coordinate their emergency plans with the County Emergency Operations Center.
- 8 This Proclamation shall be transmitted to the Secretary of State upon adoption.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Robert Hutchison, Chairman

ATTEST: J.K. "JESS" IRBY, Esq.
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: 
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM


County Attorney's Office