

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION NO. R-14-2023

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS DUE TO HURRICANE IDALIA.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Emergency Management Director of the Department of Public Safety, in his capacity as the County's Emergency Management Director, and the Clay County Emergency Operations Center has been monitoring the progress of Hurricane Idalia which may affect Clay County and Green Cove Springs, Florida through the next week; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Emergency Management Director has reported to the City Manager on August 26, 2023, that there is a high likelihood that the current and expected weather conditions may result in extensive flooding and wind damage in Clay County and Green Cove Springs, Florida, in the next week thus creating an emergency situation which will require an extraordinary response by the County and the City; and

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

WHEREAS, as a result of the forecast of this major storm impacting the City of Green Cove Springs and in order to be in a position to provide the most effective assistance to the citizens of the City of Green Cove Springs in the event weather conditions become dangerous, it is necessary that the declaration of an emergency be invoked on August 29, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, as of the entry of this Resolution, official weather reporting sources indicate and current forecast models predict that Hurricane Idalia will make landfall along areas of the Florida Gulf Coast and portions of the Florida Panhandle as a major Hurricane and impact the majority of the State of Florida, and the Governor of the State of Florida has signed an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for several counties of the State including Clay County; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Idalia poses a severe threat to the State of Florida and requires that timely precautions are taken to protect communities, critical infrastructure, and general welfare of this State; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Idalia is expected to continue moving in a north-northeast direction across the State of Florida bringing with it steady and torrential rainfall and possibly heavy winds and extensive flooding may be experienced in Clay County in the next week thus creating an emergency situation which will require an extraordinary response by the County and the City; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the combination of a major hurricane impacting Clay County and the City of Green Cove Springs over the next few days and in order to be in a position to provide the most effective assistance to the citizens of Green Cove Springs, Clay County and the State of Florida in the event weather conditions become dangerous, and further in order to be able to undertake immediate protective action to prepare for the possible arrival of this storm in or near Green Cove Springs, it is necessary that the declaration of an emergency be invoked on August 29, 2023 as of 9:00 a.m.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That pursuant to the authority granted by Sections 252.31 through 252.62, Florida Statutes, the City's home rule powers and the Clay County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, a declaration of local emergency is declared as of 9:00 a.m., on August 29, 2023, and shall remain in effect through 9:00 a.m., on September 5, 2023 (seven days) unless extended prior to that time by the City Manager for an additional seven (7) days.

SECTION 2. That the Clay County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is activated and the utilization of the emergency powers under Sections 252.31 through 252.62, Florida Statutes, is authorized.

SECTION 3. This Emergency Resolution shall be applicable throughout the City of Green Cove Springs.

DONE AND RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, IN SPECIAL SESSION THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2023.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Constance W. Butler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney