

Deputy Clerk MBASS1

**EMERGENCY DECLARATION  
2021-053**

**WHEREAS**, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 continues to pose an imminent health risk to Florida residents and visitors, including Levy County residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump enacted a National State of Emergency declaring the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 ("the Stafford Act"); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a state of emergency in the State of Florida related to COVID-19 and the effects thereof on the State, and designating the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer, which state of emergency was extended by issuance of Executive Orders 20-114, 20-166, 20-213, 20-276, 20-316, 21-45 and 21-94 by Governor DeSantis; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to and subsequent to March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued numerous Executive Orders related to the state of emergency in the State of Florida resulting from COVID-19, including orders suspending laws and regulations relating to sales of alcoholic beverages, suspending and limiting operations relating to restaurants, bars, pubs and nightclubs, limiting gatherings, directing individuals to follow CDC guidance regarding social distancing and directing individuals to stay at home except for essential services and activities; and

**WHEREAS**, circumstances change rapidly as the result of COVID-19 infections and the spread thereof in the nation and the State, leading to increased changes in governmental and civilian operations to prevent the further spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the authority granted by Article VIII, Section 1, Florida Constitution, Section 125.01, Fla. Stat., Chapter 252, Fla. Stat., and Article II, Chapter 30, Levy County Code, on March 17, 2020, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County ("Board"), issued Emergency Declaration 2020-020, declaring a Local State of Emergency in Levy County, waiving certain procedures and formalities under current circumstances in order to effectively address emergency situations that may arise for Levy County which was extended by the following Emergency Declarations on the respective dates noted in parentheses (herein, collectively with Emergency Declaration 2020-020, referred to as "Prior Emergency Declarations") 2020-021 (3/24/2020), 2020-025 (3/31/2020), 2020-029 (4/7/2020), 2020-032 (4/14/2020), 2020-035 (4/21/2020), 2020-039 (4/28/2020), 2020-046 (5/5/2020), 2020-052, (5/12/2020), 2020-053 (5/19/2020), 2020-056 (5/26/2020), 2020-066 (6/2/2020), 2020-067 (6/9/2020), 2020-072 (6/16/2020), 2020-073 (6/23/2020), 2020-079 (6/30/2020), 2020-080 (7/7/2020), 2020-081 (7/14/2020), 2020-083 (7/21/2020), 2020-087 (7/28/2020), 2020-088 (8/4/2020), 2020-089 (8/11/2020), 2020-090 (8/18/2020), 2020-091 (8/25/2020), 2020-098 (9/1/2020), 2020-103 (9/8/2020), 2020-104 (9/15/2020), 2020-109 (9/22/2020), 2020-111 (9/29/2020), 2020-112 (10/6/2020), 2020-116 (10/13/2020), 2020-119 (10/20/2020), 2020-121 (10/27/2020), 2020-124 (11/3/2020), 2020-127 (11/10/2020), 2020-131 (11/17/2020), 2020-135 (11/24/2020), 2020-136 (12/1/2020), 2020-137 (12/8/2020), 2020-138 (12/15/2020), 2020-140 (12/22/2020), 2020-141 (12/29/2020), 2021-003 (1/5/2021), 2021-005 (1/12/2021), 2021-009 (1/19/2021), 2021-010 (1/26/2021), 2021-012 (2/2/2021), 2021-013 (2/9/2021), 2021-014

(2/16/2021), 2021-019 (2/23/2021), 2021-022 (3/2/2021), 2021-027 (3/9/21), 2021-030 (3/16/21), 2021-032 (3/23/21), 2021-033 (3/30/2021), 2021-040 (4/6/2021), 2021-043 (4/13/2021), 2021-045 (4/20/21), 2021-047 (4/27/21) and 2021-049 (5/4/21); and

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of Levy County to continue to take protective measures within its power that are necessary to protect the health and safety of Levy County residents and visitors from threats arising from COVID-19 and the spread thereof; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE DECLARED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY:**

**Section 1. Adoption of Recitals.** The recitals above and as contained in the Prior Emergency Declarations are hereby included and adopted herein by reference.

**Section 2. Extension of Local State of Emergency.** Due to the continued serious health risks and related threats to the health and safety of Levy County residents and visitors arising from COVID-19, the Local State of Emergency declared by the Prior Emergency Declarations will remain in effect within the legal boundaries of Levy County, Florida for seven (7) days from the date hereof and may be extended by additional Emergency Declaration or Executive Order as necessary in seven (7) day increments.

**Section 3. Waiver of Procedures and Formalities Otherwise Required.** Due to the extension of the Local State of Emergency, the procedures and formalities required of the County by law or ordinance continue to be waived as they pertain 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 works;
- (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.

**Section 4. Additional Waivers.** The Board of County Commissioners, through its Chair, as provided in Article II, Chapter 30, Levy County Code, also hereby reserves the authority to waive any procedures or formalities otherwise required by policy or law that may authorized by Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, by Article II, Chapter 30, Levy County Code, by subsequent Orders of the Governor, or by any other state or federal authority with jurisdiction.

**Section 5. Delegation of Authority.** The authority delegated to the Director of Emergency Management by the Prior Emergency Declarations to implement and administer any applicable provisions of County disaster emergency plans, agreements or supporting documents, is hereby extended for seven (7) days from the date hereof.

**Section 6. Alterations or Rescission.** This extension of the declared Local State of Emergency may be altered or rescinded either by the issuance of an appropriate Emergency Declaration or Executive Order, or by an appropriate declaration of the Board of County Commissioners as provided in Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Article II, Chapter 30, Levy County Code.

**ENACTED** this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 and to be ratified the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 or as soon thereafter as a quorum of the Board can meet.