

**EMERGENCY DECLARATION
2020-020**

Deputy Clerk UWILLIAMS

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-2019") 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, the World Health Organization ("WHO") raised its assessment of COVID-19 threat from high to very high and declared a public health emergency of international concern related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 as "high", both in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, 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 issued in the State of Florida, which was issued by the Florida Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a state of emergency in the State of Florida and designating the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer; 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")

WHEREAS, under current circumstances, certain people will have an increased risk of infection, including healthcare workers, first responders, and emergency medical services workers caring for patients with COVID-19, and other close contacts of persons with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Levy County to take protective measures including 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, Section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, provides authority for counties to declare a Local State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Chapter 30, Levy County Code, as authorized under home rule and specifically Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, authorizes the waiver of procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions to take whatever prudent

action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community in the event of a state of emergency, and that when a quorum of the board of county commission is unable to meet, the chairman of the board of county commissioners, or the vice-chairman in his absence, or the county coordinator in the absence of the chairman and vice-chairman, is designated and empowered to declare a local state of emergency whenever he shall determine that a natural or manmade disaster has occurred or that the occurrence or threat of one is imminent and requires immediate and expeditious action;

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

Section 1. Declaration of Local State of Emergency. The COVID-19 poses a serious threat to the health of the residents and guests of Levy County. A Local State of Emergency is declared effective immediately. The Local State of Emergency 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 Executive Order as necessary in seven (7) day increments.

Section 2. Waiver of Procedures and Formalities Otherwise Required. Due to the Local State of Emergency and Office of the Governor Executive Orders 20-51 and 20-52, effective immediately, the procedures and formalities required of the County by law or ordinance are hereby 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.

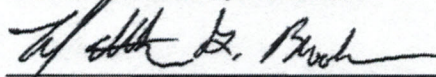
Section 3. Additional Waivers. The Board of County Commissioners also hereby waives any procedures or formalities otherwise required by policy or law that may authorized by Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, by Article II, Chapter 30, Levy County Code, by subsequent Orders of the Governor, or by any other state or federal authority with jurisdiction.

Section 4. Delegation of Authority. The Board of County Commissioners hereby delegates to the Director of Emergency Management the authority to implement and administer any applicable provisions of County disaster emergency plans, agreements or supporting documents.

Section 5. Alterations or Rescission. This declaration of a Local State of Emergency may be altered or rescinded by the issuance of 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 17th day of March, 2020 and ratified this the 7th day of April, 2020.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA**



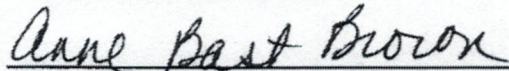
Matt Brooks, Chairman

**ATTEST: CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
AND EX OFFICIO TO THE BOARD**



Danny J. Shipp

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**



Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney