

## **EMERGENCY ORDER**

**2020-046**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDER AMENDING EMERGENCY ORDER 2020-026, AS AMENDED BY EMERGENCY ORDER 2020-030, CLARIFYING THAT LEVY COUNTY SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES NOT BE CONSIDERED PROHIBITED GATHERINGS DURING THE DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Chair of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") issued Emergency Declaration 2020-020, declaring a Local State of Emergency in Levy County due to the effects of COVID-19 on Levy County, which Local State of Emergency has been extended by several subsequent Emergency Declarations which have or will have been ratified by the Board as of the date of this Emergency Order; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2020, the Board adopted Emergency Order 2020-026 prohibiting gatherings of more than ten people in Levy County during the County's declared State of Emergency, with some exceptions and limitations, including exceptions for government meetings provided social distancing guidelines are met; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-91, as amended by Executive Order 20-92, directing senior citizens and those with significant underlying medical conditions to stay at home, and directing all people in Florida to limit movements outside of their home to those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 7, 2020, the Board adopted Emergency Order 2020-030, amending Emergency Order 2020-026 to provide for additions to and clarification of

essential services, to add sanitation and cleaning measures to be taken by venues for essential services, and to include County functions and operations as “Mission Essential Services” as contained in the CISA list of essential critical infrastructure workers; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 18, 2020, the Florida Department of Education and Governor DeSantis jointly recommended that Florida schools remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year, which schools had earlier been closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring Levy County schools and students to complete the 2019-2020 school year through virtual distance learning and to miss many cancelled extra-curricular school year-end activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the restrictions against gatherings contained in Emergency Order 2020-026, as amended, if left unclarified, could be interpreted to prevent the members of the graduating classes of Levy County schools and their friends, families, teachers, and school personnel from attending graduation ceremonies, which adds additional hardship on top of already trying circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, in the weeks since the adoption of the Governor’s Executive Order 20-91, Florida’s COVID-19 infection and death rates appear to be flattening and improving; and

**WHEREAS**, in anticipation of the flattening and improving of the curve of COVID-19 infections and deaths in Florida, Governor DeSantis appointed a Re-Open Florida Task Force to propose and advise the Governor on a plan to re-open Florida during and after the flattening and improvement of the curve of COVID-19 infections and deaths, which Task Force conducted its first meeting April 20, 2020, and which continues to meet and develop Florida’s plan for re-opening; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 21, 2020, the Board adopted the Levy County BOCC COVID-19 Phased Re-Opening Guide, which provides a flexible, phased plan for re-opening Levy County’s economy and lifting the restrictions imposed by Emergency Order 2020-026, as amended; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the hard work of the members of Levy County schools' graduating classes and the recognition of the improvement conditions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and in recognition of the ability of Levy County's hard-working students, their families and friends, and their schools' faculty and staffs to follow the social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC and the FLDOH, the Board finds it is in the best interests of the citizens to amend Emergency Order 2020-026, as previously amended, to clarify that graduation ceremonies of Levy County schools be a recognized exception to the limitations imposed by Emergency Order 2020-026, as amended;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:**

1. Section 5 of Emergency Order 2020-026 is hereby amended to read as follows (deletions shown as ~~crossed through~~; additions shown as underlined):

5. (a) This Emergency Order does not include gatherings for government meetings held in government buildings or religious services in churches; provided that those gatherings include social distancing measures of maintaining a minimum of six feet between any attendees or participants.

(b) This Emergency Order does not include graduation ceremonies for the 2019-2020 school year for any school located in Levy County; provided that the ceremonies include all social distancing and protective measures recommended by the CDC and the FLDOH to the extent those measures are feasible.

2. The remainder of Emergency Order 2020-026, as previously amended by Emergency Order 2020-030, that is not amended by this Emergency Order 2020-046 will remain in full force and effect, unless otherwise amended.

**DULY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

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

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Matt Brooks, Chair

ATTEST: Clerk of the Circuit Court and  
Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board  
of County Commissioners

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Danny J. Shipp, Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

  

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Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney

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