

**EMERGENCY DECLARATION**  
**2021-29**

**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 Dixie 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, Dixie 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

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Action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community in the event of a state of emergency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE DECLARED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE 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 Dixie County. A Local State of Emergency is declared effective immediately. The Local State of Emergency will remain in effect within the legal boundaries of Dixie 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. 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 4. 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.

Enacted this the 28 day of January 2021 and ratified this 28 day of January 2021.

Attest:



*Barbie Higginbotham*  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

Board of County Commissioners  
Dixie County, Florida

*Mark Hatch*  
Mark Hatch, Chairman