

Declaration

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in Broward County, Florida, at least 38 people have tested presumptively positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), a serious respiratory illness that causes symptoms similar to influenza, including coughing, fever, and shortness of breath;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 constitutes a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Broward County;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the outbreak a “pandemic” and a “public health emergency of international concern”;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) is recommending that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to and from countries designated by the CDC as Level 3 areas;

WHEREAS, the CDC has also warned older travelers and those with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, compromised immune systems, or diabetes, to avoid nonessential travel globally, and further warns all travelers to exercise enhanced precautions;

WHEREAS, the CDC is predicting that it is “likely” that “widespread transmission” of COVID-19 will occur in the United States, and no vaccine or drug is currently available to combat COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Broward County residents should follow the recommendations of the CDC, taking commonsense, practical measures such as frequent hand washing, staying home and self-isolating when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and practicing social distancing;

WHEREAS, President Trump declared a national emergency concerning COVID-19 on March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency due to COVID-19 on March 9, 2020;

WHEREAS, Section 252.36, Florida Statutes, provides that a gubernatorial emergency declaration activates the emergency management plans of affected Florida counties;

WHEREAS, Broward County’s emergency management plan has been activated and the Emergency Operations Center is at a Level 2 activation;

WHEREAS, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, on March 10, 2020, directed my office to “take any appropriate and necessary action to maintain the day-to-day business and operations of Broward County if isolation or containment measures regarding COVID-19 preclude regular meetings of the County Commission, including approving and executing agreements, approving solicitations, rankings, and bid awards, approving public hearing notices, and taking any other action necessary to act in the best interest of Broward County, subject to advance written notice to the Board and ratification by the Board at the next official public meeting of the County Commission for any action not otherwise within the current authority of the County Administrator”;

WHEREAS, Section 8-53 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances ("County Code") permits the County Administrator to declare a local State of Emergency when conditions such as those described above are found to exist and there is a danger of loss of life;

WHEREAS, Section 8-53 of the County Code empowers the County Administrator to exercise extraordinary powers during the existence of a State of Emergency, activate emergency management plans, and take prudent action necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of residents of Broward County; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a Declaration of Emergency, declaring a Local State of Emergency in Broward County;

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Bertha Henry, County Administrator of Broward County, Florida, do hereby find for the reasons set forth above that the local State of Emergency continues to exist within Broward County, Florida.

Pursuant to pertinent legal authorities, my Office is vested with all powers and authority granted to said position during the existence of the State of Emergency proclaimed hereby.

Furthermore, all procedures and formalities are hereby waived pursuant to state law and Section 8-53 of the County Code.

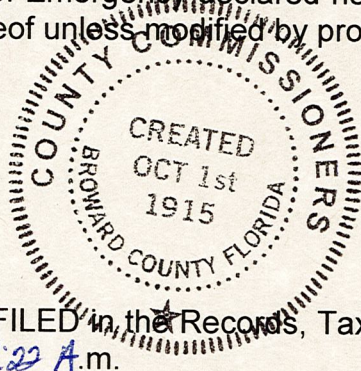
My Office shall issue such Emergency Orders as are required to conduct County business and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of people within Broward County, including, without limitation and to the extent permitted under applicable law or emergency authority, to institute a curfew, order the closure of County facilities, restrict travel and movement within Broward County, order evacuations, and such other actions deemed necessary for public safety.

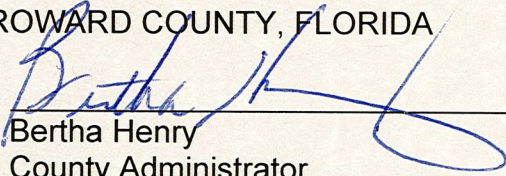
Pursuant to the Broward County Emergency Management Plan, if I become unable to carry out my emergency powers and duties, the Deputy County Administrator, Monica Cepero, shall carry out those powers and duties.

All public officials and employees of Broward County are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of their duties for the duration of this emergency and in the execution of State and local emergency orders, regulations, and directives.

All people of Broward County are called upon and directed to comply with all necessary emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and civil emergency/disaster service forces in executing emergency operational plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful direction of all properly identified public officers.

The State of Emergency declared hereby shall continue for seven days from the date and time hereof unless modified by proper authority.



BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: 
Bertha Henry
County Administrator

RECEIVED AND FILED in the Records, Taxes and Treasury Division on this 17th day of March, 2020, at 9:22 A.m.