

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO UNNAMED LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order No. 24-03 on January 9, 2024, declaring that a state of emergency exists for certain counties in the State of Florida due to the forecast models for Enhanced Risk for severe weather across North Florida including Pasco County (hereafter referred to as “the event”); and

WHEREAS, the event poses a potential threat to the lives and property of residents of Pasco County, requiring advance preparation and mobilization of resources, as well as flexibility and authority from the Board of County Commissioners to act in a timely manner to prepare for the event, render assistance to affected residents, and mitigate any property damage caused by the event; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, provides authority for political subdivisions, such as Pasco County, to declare a State of Local Emergency and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions by law pertaining to:

1. Performance of public work and taking whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;
2. Entering into contracts;
3. Incurring obligations;
4. Employment of permanent and temporary workers;
5. Utilization of volunteer workers;
6. Rental of equipment;
7. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials and facilities; and
8. The transfer, amendment, appropriation and/or expenditure of public funds; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County, Florida in Regular session, this 9th day of January, 2024, hereby declares a State of Local Emergency, pursuant to Section 252, Florida Statutes, and Sections 30-29 and 30-30, Pasco County Code of Ordinances, effective immediately for all territory within the legal boundaries of Pasco County, including all unincorporated and incorporated areas, and authorizes the County Administrator or his designee to order evacuations, make emergency purchases, or take any other actions he deems necessary. This State of Local Emergency shall be effective upon enactment and shall remain in effect for a seven (7) day period thereafter, unless otherwise rescinded or extended as provided by law. Further, to the extent allowed by law, this declaration retroactively applies to ratify expenditures made and actions taken prior to the effective date of this LSE by county staff in connection with preparations in anticipation of the event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners that the County Administrator and the Emergency Management Director are each delegated the authority to (1) extend this initial declaration of a local state of emergency as many times as necessary, and (2) dissolve this local state of emergency (or any extensions thereof) if the event no longer poses a threat to the lives and/or property of Pasco County residents, or to public property. This delegation of authority to the County Administrator and/or the Emergency Management Director to extend or dissolve this local state of emergency does not require further action by this Board, and is granted whether or not a quorum of the board is able to meet; the procedures set out in sections 30-29 and 30-30 of the Pasco County Code that may be interpreted to be in conflict with this grant of authority are hereby waived.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners that it is the intent of this Board that, given the possibility that episodic rainfall or high winds or tornadic activity may result in only localized damage or flooding, that the County Administrator or his designee shall have the flexibility to institute, modify, amend, terminate, or reinstate evacuation orders as conditions and affected areas change, and without further action by this Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners desires to facilitate the cleanup of debris on private property by those residents affected by wind, rainfall and/or flooding, and therefore this Board directs that the costs of debris disposal (tipping fees) otherwise charged to residents for debris disposal related to this event shall be paid from the general fund rather than by the affected residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners that said Board hereby exercises its authority and waives the procedures and formalities required by law of a political subdivision, as provided in Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Sections 30-29 and 30-30, Pasco County Code of Ordinances.

DONE AND RESOLVED with a quorum present and voting this 9th day of January, 2024.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Niki Alvarez-Sowles, D.C.

NIKI ALVAREZ-SOWLES, ESQ.
CLERK & COMPTROLLER

Ronald Oakley

RONALD OAKLEY, CHAIR

APPROVED
IN SESSION

JAN 09 2024

PASCO COUNTY
BCC