

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**

MARCH 27, 2020

2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley – Chairman, Ricky Jones-Vice-Chairman, Joseph Parrish were present in the meeting room, William Massey and Bert B. Boldt, II, were present via phone.

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board were present in the meeting room.

Call to Order

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Moron said the Agenda is available online at franklincountyflorida.com. He stated he would like to take the report from Mrs. Brownell first as she has another conference call to attend. He explained after her report he will explain how they are going to handle public comments.

Emergency Management Director - Pam Brownell

3. Notification of Resignation and Request to advertise vacant position "in-house"

Mrs. Brownell notified the Board that Mrs. Tress Dameron, Emergency Management Coordinator, has resigned effective April 3, 2020. She requested the Board allow her to promote Mrs. Jennifer Daniels, Special Needs Coordinator, to the Emergency Management Coordinator position because she is already cross trained. She reported Mrs. Daniels has the same time and training as Mrs. Dameron. Mrs. Brownell said storm season will be here in two months and it is time consuming for her to go through the interview process and she does not think they will find anyone qualified in the county for this position. Mrs. Brownell explained Mrs. Dameron is leaving because of a salary increase and in 2013 Mr. Mike Rundel, Emergency Management Department, left for the same reason. She reported she would like, with Board

approval, to give Mrs. Daniels the starting salary of Mrs. Dameron. She said this would only increase Mrs. Daniels' salary by \$3,133.00. Mrs. Brownell reported they are paid from grants so this is not an increase to her budget. She explained with the vacancy in Mrs. Daniels' position her department will save \$4,000 because that position will be advertised to start at \$25,000.

Commissioner Massey made a motion to give the position to Mrs. Jennifer Daniels. The motion failed for lack of a second.

4. Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Contracts - Update and Board approval

Mrs. Brownell reported 2 contractors submitted bids and the contractors are J.P. Roberts who only installs shutters and Florida Retrofits. She asked the Board to approve and sign the contracts with these 2 contractors. Chairman Lockley asked if this is the program that fixes houses and roofs. Mrs. Brownell replied yes, they apply for this grant every year and have received it every year. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to sign the contracts with J.P. Roberts and Florida Retrofits for the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program.**

Commissioner Boldt asked if they should have a discussion about the salary issue and potential promotion of Mrs. Daniels and look at that approach next. Chairman Lockley stated they cannot do that because she has not been promoted. Attorney Shuler said on the Agenda it looks like Mrs. Brownell is asking for Board approval to advertise in house to begin the process. Mrs. Brownell explained she would like to promote Mrs. Daniels instead of advertising in house because they are not going to find anyone that has the experience to take that position. Chairman Lockley said they cannot do that and must advertise. He reported they usually advertise in house first and then out. He stated they cannot just promote. Attorney Shuler reported the personnel rules require them to advertise in house and publicly or they can do both simultaneously. He suggested they start to process to advertise in house. Commissioner Parrish asked how they can advertise in house with all county employees because they have not been allowing people to swap jobs and bring their salary with them. Attorney Shuler agreed the Board has not allowed employees to transfer and take their salary. He explained what typically happens is people want to transfer from a high paying, high responsibility job to a low responsibility, low paying job and take the high pay with them. Commissioner Parrish said that could happen in this situation. Attorney Shuler reported if it does then they will have to take it on a case by case basis. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Moron if he received Mr. Alan Pierce's salary when he took over. Mr. Moron answered no. He reported if they allow Mrs. Daniels to transfer and take Mrs. Dameron's salary that is not the same thing that was granted to Mr. Moron, Mr. Davis or Mr. Nabors and that is why he did not second the motion. He said everyone needs to be treated fairly and equitably. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not know how they are going to move forward with the process unless they advertise in house and out house and advertise all at one time. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion that they do simultaneous advertising both in house and in the public.** Chairman Lockley agreed this is the best way to do this. He agreed with Commissioner Parrish that they have not increased salaries in this way and that will open up a lot of issues and they will have to increase the salaries of a lot of employees. Mr. Moron explained Mrs. Dameron's role is the number two position and

they need to clarify what salary they will advertise. He reported it will be tough to advertise the number two role at the base rate when the number three position is making more doing less work with less responsibility. Mr. Moron stated they need to do a job description and salary first because he does not see how they are going to get this done at the base salary. He said they could talk with Mrs. Griffith or the labor attorneys but the Board may need to take this under consideration. He reported Mrs. Brownell may want to reconstruct Mrs. Daniels' position and give her a small raise but not what Mrs. Dameron was making and then the number three position would be starting off at the base salary that they would advertise for. Commissioner Parrish said that is what they did with the other jobs and did not give them the salary of the person they were replacing. Mr. Moron stated he also needs to clarify the record on what they did with Ms. Cortni Bankston, Planning & Building Department, because that could help in determining how they move forward. He suggested Mrs. Brownell could prepare a job description and put a low and high of what she thinks the job should be and the Board can choose somewhere in between and then they can advertise in house to see if there is anyone else besides Mrs. Daniels that might be interested and meets the qualifications. Commissioner Parrish asked if they should table this today. Mr. Moron agreed they could table this matter until Mrs. Brownell provides a salary range on the job advertisement. Commissioner Parrish stated that needs to include a list of duties and job description. Mr. Moron reported he can send that to the Board members to review and they can send their comments to Mrs. Brownell. Chairman Lockley stated they need to correct the comments because there could be someone else out there that is qualified. Mr. Moron clarified he thinks she meant within the county ranks because they are talking about in house advertising. Chairman Lockley and Commissioner Parrish said the motion was to advertise in house and publicly at the same time. Attorney Shuler agreed that is the motion but based on what Mr. Moron said his suggestion is to withdraw the motion the table this matter for a job description and further consideration.

Commissioner Boldt withdrew his motion. Commissioner Jones stated the bigger problem is they do not have in the personnel policy that if they stated it is a promotion in a single department instead of other departments trying to transfer that would clear a lot of this up because then people would not be trying to transfer to a different department and take their years of service with them. He explained if it stated in house advertising was people working in that department that wanted to move up and take on more responsibility. Mr. Moron stated it would be an inter-departmental promotional opportunity. Commissioner Jones agreed it would be the same department because they are not trying to promote someone from another department because they had not been working there. Chairman Lockley said it usually takes care of itself when they find out the job is making less than what they are making. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to move forward with what they have been discussing as far as re-writing the job descriptions for Mrs. Brownell's office and at the same time for Mr. Moron to talk with the labor attorneys about what they need to add to the policy something about people being promoted in the same department instead of inter-departmental.**

Mr. Moron reported the problem they had today is because the conference room should have a capacity of 500 and it is capping out at 125 and that is the number they

are at now. Chairman Lockley asked about limiting the time for each speaker if there are 125 people on the conference call. Attorney Shuler questioned how people show they want to make a public comment. Mr. Moron replied they will hit * 9 on their phone and he will see a hand raise that puts them in the que to speak. He explained when it is their time to speak he will acknowledge them and they will get a message that it is time to talk. He reported individuals usually have 3 minutes to speak but he will not know how many people are interesting in speaking until he puts the system in that mode. Chairman Lockley stated if there are going to be 125 people that want to speak then he is going to reduce the time to 1 minute. Attorney Shuler stated during these emergency circumstances the Board does have the discretion to reduce the time for public comment. Mr. Moron advised the individuals they are limited to 1 minute. Chairman Lockley asked everyone to work with them because this is the first time they are doing this over the phone. Mr. Moron explained when they are selected to speak they need to state their name and address for the minutes. Commissioner Parrish said he would like the other two people in the audience to give their presentation and then have public comment because they may answer some questions and then they can go. Mr. Moron said for the public he wants to announce the people in the meeting room are Chairman Lockley, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Parrish, (Commissioner Massey and Commissioner Boldt are appearing by telephone), Clerk Johnson, Mrs. Hines, Attorney Shuler, Mrs. Brownell (who was present earlier), Mrs. Sarah Hinds, Administrator for the Department of Health in Franklin County and Gulf County, Mr. David Walker, Weems Memorial Hospital CEO, and Deputy Thomas Webb. He explained Ms. Hinds was not on the Agenda to speak but is here to provide an update. Ms. Hinds stated they are working close with the health care partners, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Board on how best to handle the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. She explained they are trying to educate the residents and thanked everyone for listening to what is happening in the community. Ms. Hinds stated they are keeping everyone updated by using the Franklin County EOC Facebook page. She explained the updates are pinned to the top and also sent out to a group of distribution partners. Ms. Hinds stated soon they will have a texting service available. She explained there are kiosks that look like large black televisions in the grocery outlets in Franklin County and there will be updates about what is happening in the community and the texting service. She said when this is available they will send it out to everyone so they can get the message. Ms. Hinds reported the Health Departments is still open and they continue to work on response efforts. She stated their telephone number at the Health Department is (850) 653-2111 and there is also a hotline which is 866-779-6121. Ms. Hinds said they have been pushing out educational information about hand hygiene and respiratory care and they continue to send out these messages. She reported they recommend social distancing with staying 6 ft. from each other and limiting groups to 10. She stated it is also important to pay attention to travel advisories and places with widespread transmission. Ms. Hinds explained people need to take this seriously because this virus spreads like the flu and to further social distancing strategies the Board closed the beaches. She reported the Governor issued an order to reflect any

visitors coming in from areas with substantial community spread are to self-quarantine for 14 days. She stated any visitor traveling from a highly affected area needs to follow that order. Ms. Hinds reported they appreciate the support from the Board and the EOC to mitigate the efforts and stop the introduction of COVID-19 into the community. Ms. Hinds said in order to flatten the curve and slow the spread of the virus they are responsible for protecting the most at risk population. She reported yesterday the State Surgeon General issued a health advisory asking all individuals over the age of 65 and all individuals of any age with high risk conditions to stay at home and limit their risk of exposure to COVID-19. She discussed preventive methods that should be used. Ms. Hinds presented the percentages of people in the county over this age and the number who have high risk conditions and compromised immune systems. She said they are trying to protect these individuals and they need everyone doing their part if they fall into these categories. Ms. Hinds reported these closures and ordinances are to protect these individuals and slow the spread so the medical system capacity is manageable especially in rural communities. She said Gulf County and Franklin County each have 1 hospital. She stated the personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage is nationwide and they are trying to do the best they can with the supplies they have. Ms. Hinds reported orders have been submitted but they are not guaranteed the supplies. She stated they are working with the hospital to get supplies and have the resources they need. She said Mr. Walker will provide an update. She reported testing is available and everyone can call their health care provider and schedule an appointment. She explained the health care providers will rule out other forms of respiratory illness. Ms. Hinds stated the Health Department testing is based on people that meets CDC criteria. She said if someone does not meet CDC criteria a health care provider can still send the patient to commercial lab testing and that is happening in Gulf County and Franklin County. Ms. Hinds advised everyone to reach out to the Health Department if they have any questions.

Weems CEO - David Walker

2. Weems COVID-19 Update

Mr. Walker stated Weems Memorial Hospital is working hard to keep their patients, staff and the community healthy during the COVID-19 epidemic. He said they must protect the most vulnerable at risk residents and elderly population from this disease. Mr. Walker reported in response to the COVID-19 epidemic they have ordered 6 new ventilators to go along with 3 ventilators and 2 BiPap machines they currently have. He stated most small rural critical access hospitals only keep 1-3 ventilators in their hospital. Mr. Walker reported the new ventilators cost \$85,000 and the delivery date has changed to 4-6 weeks because of the demand on ventilators nationwide. He said they have placed an order through EOC for PPE. Mr. Walker explained the Florida Hospital Association is looking at the order as well. Mr. Walker informed the Board hospital expenses will increase because they are doubling their cleaning supplies and PPE at the hospital, EMS and the clinics. He reported they have also contacted some people on the state level to assist them with getting PPE. Mr. Walker said if anyone wants to donate

these items they will be glad to receive them. He explained they have also contacted some local colleges if they have any supplies to donate. Mr. Walker reported Mr. Mark O'Bryant, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH), called him and TMH is reaching out to critical access hospitals in the region to assist with their COVID-19 response. He explained yesterday Mr. O'Bryant sent a team of clinicians to meet with the inpatient and Emergency Department (ED) nurses, respiratory therapist, laboratory manager and IT personnel to share the lessons they learned and some training they have used in handling their COVID-19 cases. Mr. Walker said TMH is making their list of vendors available for ordering PPE. He stated the TMH representatives explained to Weems staff how they use telemedicine with their COVID-19 patients. He reported TMH also left a telemedicine machine for the physicians and nurses here so they can interact with the physicians and nurses that are part of the TMH COVID-19 response unit. Mr. Walker reported TMH is offering this service to the critical access hospitals in the region and it will allow them to be more mobile while providing care. He reported TMH has also created a rural resources web page for the COVID-19 response for critical access hospitals. He stated the other critical access hospitals are looking to have weekly calls with TMH to share lessons learned and their resources in this pandemic. He stated small hospitals have to leverage all resources they can to deal with this pandemic. Mr. Walker said Weems Memorial Hospital is looking at doing an IT upgrade to be more efficient with telemedicine and to have other internet capabilities. He reported telemedicine is a key strategy to deliver care in this pandemic for the hospital, the clinics and EMS. He stated TMH gave them a checklist and preparation guide for addressing COVID-19 patients and most of the items had been implemented. Mr. Walker said they have been participating on a statewide level on conference calls with the Florida Surgeon General, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Secretary and the Florida Hospital Association to receive daily updates. He stated Ms. Hinds spoke about hospital beds and AHCA is looking at bed capacity throughout the state because it is a big issue since a lot of rural hospitals have closed. He reported AHCA is looking for vacant buildings throughout the state to increase inpatient and ICU bed capacity. Mr. Walker said AHCA and DOH are monitoring bed census at each hospital and health care facility statewide. He stated they have also been asked to review their alternate care site plans to anticipate the surge. Mr. Walker stated they have participated in weekly calls with the DOH Rural Health Office and the guidance for COVID-19 is changing almost daily so they have to adapt. He reported they are partnering with their local DOH, EOC and stakeholders on how they address the virus.

Public Comments

Ms. Stacy Burch, a resident of Apalachicola, addressed the possibility of opening the beaches. She stated at this point most of the people at St. George Island are not tourists but homeowners so the closure is punishing local people. She reported everyone has adhered to CDC guidelines. Ms. Burch requested the Board open the beaches.

Mr. David Covington, a resident of St. George Island, stated the Governor has suspended all vacation rentals in Florida for the next 14 days. He requested the Board change their date for

public notice on what they are going to do from Friday until Wednesday so people that are planning longer trips can plan whether to travel or not.

Ms. Brenda Karlin, a resident of St. George Island, stated if they continue with the beach closure they defined public so that residents are excluded. She requested if the Board continues to keep the beaches closed it is not indefinite and they continue to re-evaluate the situation weekly. Ms. Karlin said they talk about the curve with COVID-19 but there is also an economic curve so she urged the Commissioners to think outside the box so the businesses in the county can survive.

Mr. Grayson Shepard, a resident of Apalachicola, said the Governor made the decision for the county by cancelling the vacation rentals. He said he was nervous that next week is the primary week for spring break for Atlanta schools and Atlanta is on lockdown and their hospitals are at capacity with COVID-19. He agreed the public beaches should be reopened especially for locals as long as they practice social distancing.

Mr. David Gillespie, a resident of St. George Island, said he agrees with the end of the rentals. He stated they need to insure the residents from highly affected areas are not coming into the area. He reported people that are carrying the disease should not come into the area.

Ms. Mary Ann McGuire, a resident of St. George Island, recommended a shutdown of short term rentals in Franklin County similar to the shutdown ordered by the City of Apalachicola and Monroe County. She reported despite the beach closure people from all over are continuing to arrive ignoring government and expert recommendations to avoid all travel. She stated the arrival of new guests each week is a great risk to everyone that lives here. Ms. McGuire said if they have a COVID-19 outbreak the medical resources will be overwhelmed. She requested the Board order a local shutdown to prevent a virus outbreak in the community. She asked the Board to do what is best for the health and lives of the people they represent.

Ms. Janet Joslin, a resident of St. George Island, stated they need to keep the beaches closed on the Island. She said they are still having tourists come to the Island and if they open the beaches there are people who can drive from other states in a day. She reported there is no way they can control the number of people that are not residents. She said the only other way would be a mandatory evacuation of the Island for all non-residents and that could be policed by placing someone on one end of the bridge. Ms. Joslin stated then they could open the beaches for residents.

Commissioner Parrish said someone stated the Governor limited transient rentals for 14 days and asked if that is correct. Ms. Hinds reported the Governor has suspended new vacation rentals in Florida for 2 weeks. Attorney Shuler stated staff is trying to print a copy of the order from the Governor's website. Chairman Lockley said that is for new rentals but what about the people that are already here. Ms. Hinds explained the Governor's Order said they could finish out their rentals and then leave. She cautioned people need to be self-isolating if they are

from areas of widespread or defined spread. Commissioner Parrish said the Governor's Order stated if people are coming from other states that are affected by COVID-19 they need to remain in their own state. Ms. Hinds agreed that is correct and said the Governor's Order was not just limited to the New York tristate area. She reported they need to pay attention to the CDC guidance and the map that highlights areas with substantial community spread which means the virus is widespread across their state or there are defined areas within the state. She discussed the states that have substantial spread and areas of Florida that have defined areas of community spread. Ms. Hinds pointed out it is very important to pay attention to what is happening in their hometown because they should be staying at home if they are in an area of community spread. Commissioner Parrish said this has given the Commission guidance on what they should be doing. He stated people are speaking about what they want but their duty as elected officials is to uphold the constitution and the laws of the federal and state government. Commissioner Parrish stated when CDC guidelines have been issued from the federal government and Florida DOH they must follow those guidelines. Mr. Moron reported staff is still looking for a copy of the Governor's new order. Commissioner Jones said he would like to verify what they have been told about this order. Chairman Lockley agreed they can take a recess.

The meeting recessed at 3:21 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

County Coordinator - Michael Morón

Ms. Hinds played the Governor's briefing on her telephone for the Board but said they are still waiting for the Order. Chairman Lockley asked if people have insurance so they can get money back on the vacation rentals. Attorney Shuler stated that is an option some rental companies offer to their clients but he was not sure if all of them have insurance. Attorney Shuler reported staff is printing out the Executive Order and it also includes checkpoints on major highways. Chairman Lockley stated the Governor is telling them not to rent so the Board cannot override the Governor.

5. Ordinance 2020-07 (Closing of County Beaches and Public Beach Accesses) - Discussion and possible action on extending until further notice

Attorney Shuler said one of the items on the Agenda is whether the Board wants to consider extending the temporary closing of all the beaches and public beach accesses in Franklin County. He reported unless the Board takes action to extend the temporary closing it will expire tonight at 7 p.m. Attorney Shuler stated he has presented an updated Emergency Ordinance #2020-08 which is similar to the Ordinance #2020-07 that was adopted on Sunday for the temporary beach closure except it has some additional items for the Board to consider. He read the additional items for the Board. Attorney Shuler reported the proposed ordinance would terminate Ordinance #2020-06 and incorporate in a continuation of the closing of the beach, beach accesses and public beach parking lots. He explained it did not make sense to

have 2 different ordinances with one that had a termination date and one that did not. He reported the ordinance would continue in effect so long as the Governor's Executive Order of a Statewide Declaration of Emergency was in force and effect so the Board would not have to come back on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Commissioner Parrish asked if he would also revise the Ordinance to include the Governor's Executive Order for no new transient rentals. Mr. Moron said they think the new Executive Order has not been produced yet. Attorney Shuler said they could include it but the Board has no ability to override the Governor's Executive Order. He explained they can extend the time or rely on the Governor's order but it is not necessary to include it in the ordinance. Attorney Shuler reported these are two separate issues and he would not place them together. He stated he also has a proposed Resolution which does not go as far the Governor's new order in banning transient rentals. Chairman Lockley inquired how many weeks the Governor's order was for. Commissioner Jones said 14 days. Attorney Shuler agreed that is what they heard but they do not have a copy of the order yet. He stated the order also included checkpoints along highways and interstates to enforce the order. Chairman Lockley said this situation is getting worse instead of better with what is going on with the other states. Commissioner Boldt supported paralleling the ordinances with the Governor's Executive Order to be consistent. Commissioner Parrish agreed they do not want to have a Franklin County rule and then people from other states are not aware of the Governor's Executive Order but Attorney Shuler said they are two different issues. He expressed concern that the county ordinance will say one thing and the Governor's Order will say something else. Commissioner Boldt agreed they must honor good communication and stay in step with what the state is doing. Chairman Lockley stated they do not want to go against what the Governor is saying. Commissioner Jones reported the new ordinance is basically doing the same thing they did a week ago extending the beach closure and addressing public parking. Attorney Shuler explained the proposed ordinance combines Emergency Ordinance #2020-06 and Emergency Ordinance #2020-07 into Emergency Ordinance #2020-08 so it covers the temporary closing of all beaches, all public beach accesses and parking lots at the public beach parks. He said instead of having a one week sunset the temporary ban would remain in place as long as the Governor's Executive Order declaring the state of emergency for the State of Florida remains in force and effect. Attorney Shuler stated when the Governor rescinds his order then the beach closure would end. **Commissioner Jones made a motion that they do this for a 2 week period to parallel what the Governor did. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Mr. Moron said that would be until April 10th. Attorney Shuler said the ordinance would sunset on April 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. unless the Board takes further action to extend. Mr. Moron pointed out April 10th is Good Friday which is a county holiday so they need to make the date April 9th. Ms. Hinds reported both Gulf County and Bay County are through April 9th. **Commissioner Jones amended his motion to reflect the sunset is April 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Parrish amended his second.** Chairman Lockley reported they will come back then unless something changes with the Governor. Commissioner Massey stated if the Governor changes his rules then the Board needs to come back. Commissioner Boldt asked if this ordinance should be automatic to what the Governor says rather than a special date. Chairman Lockley agreed that would be good because it will be an automatic extension for the

county. Attorney Shuler clarified the Governor did not order a beach closure in Franklin County. Chairman Lockley stated the Board will have to come back. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-08

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA,
TEMPORARILY CLOSING ALL BEACHES AND PUBLIC BEACH
ACCESSES IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA; CLOSING ALL
PUBLIC PARKING LOTS ASSOCIATED WITH BEACH PARKS;
PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT BY THE SHERIFF; PROVIDING FOR
PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING A SUNSET DATE.

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-52 declared a state-wide state of emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Franklin County declared a state of local emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-68 limiting gatherings on the Beach; and,

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, Franklin County found it necessary to enact emergency ordinance 2020-6 to prohibit parking at public beach parks and beach accesses; and,

WHEREAS, Franklin County has determined that gatherings on the Beach constitutes a threat to the public's health, safety and welfare and are likely to lead to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and that enactment of this emergency ordinance closing the Beaches and public Beach Accesses in necessary to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, Franklin County has determined that the Sheriff of Franklin County be, and is hereby, empowered to enforce this Emergency Ordinance,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. All Beaches and Beach Accesses in Franklin County are temporarily closed to the public, including all public beach parking lots associated with the Beaches and Beach Accesses.
2. It shall be unlawful for members of the public to access, use or recreate for traditional purposes, the Beaches in Franklin County, Florida.
3. Definitions:

- a. "Beach" shall include all of the sandy beach area from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Apalachicola Bay, and St. George Sound to the frontal dune line or, where there is no frontal dune line, to the line of permanent vegetation or construction, whichever is more seaward.
 - b. "Beach Access" shall mean all public beach access points, including all associated boardwalks, walkways, parking areas and the area on the Beach beginning at the entrance to the Beach.
4. Penalty: Any person who violates the provisions hereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.775.083, Fla. Stat.
 5. Severability: If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is held by a final judgment from a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, void or invalid, it shall be severed from this ordinance and the remaining portion of the ordinance shall be enforced.
 6. Repeal: All ordinances in conflict with the provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed, including ordinance 2020-6.
 7. Effective Date: This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption on this the 27th day of March, 2020.
 8. Termination Date: This emergency ordinance shall sunset on April 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (ET), and it shall not be enforced thereafter.

This ordinance was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, during a duly declared local state of emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, on this the 27th day of March, 2020.

Franklin County, a political subdivision of
The State of Florida

By: s/Noah Lockley, Jr.

Noah Lockley, Jr., Its Chairman

By: Marcia M. Johnson

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court

Approved as to legal form and sufficiency

By: s/Thomas M. Shuler

Thomas M. Shuler, Franklin County Attorney

Attorney Shuler stated he presented a Resolution to the Board earlier today and he read the caption of the Resolution addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and actions to take to try to prevent the spread of the virus. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt stated this is an excellent Resolution and that adds clarity and compliments the ordinance. Commissioner Parrish said it also aligns with the Governor's Executive Order. Chairman Lockley reported they are trying to keep Franklin County safe and this virus is bad everywhere and people are coming in and no one is checking where people come from. **Motion carried; 5-0. The Resolution is, as follows:**

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION, STATE OF FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO FRANKLIN COUNTY'S LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND ITS IMPACT ON LOCAL MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES INCLUSIVE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONEL AND HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT; AND DECLARING SELF QUARANTINE GUIDELINES FOR VISITORS TO FRANKLIN COUNTY.

WHEREAS, a national state of emergency has been declared in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and pursuant to the federal public health and safety agencies under President Trump's direction as well as the state emergency declaration and actions since taken by Governor DeSantis, Franklin County seeks to immediately enact those emergency and protective measures for Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners has declared a local state of emergency on March 17, 2020 in immediate response to the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan has been activated for the event herein stated above pursuant TO the "Local State of Emergency Proclamation" and authorization issued by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners (the Board) thereby issuing themselves, the Franklin County Administrator and his representatives the power, authorities and duties pursuant to Chapter 252, Fla. Stat., to take any and all action under the plan necessary for the preservation of the health, welfare and safety of the people and property of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners thereafter adopted Emergency Ordinance 20-07 closing Franklin County beaches; and

WHEREAS, there is necessity for further action of this Commission for continued prompt and efficient responses and recovery in order to safeguard lives and property

affected by this pandemic including but not limited to the necessary restrictions, closures and as deemed necessary engagement and contracting of third party vendors for the protection and preservation of Franklin County life and property subject to the waivers and authority stated herein above; and,

WHEREAS, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners recognize the immediate necessity and limited availability of the material and human resources available to the residents of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners recognize and emphasize their primary concern and care is for the health, safety and well-being of every resident of Franklin County during this global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners recognize that for the continued recovery from Hurricane Michael for many families in Franklin County it is vitally important that this Commission support all measures to protect and support the local residents of our rebuilding communities; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners acknowledge the great sacrifice and immediate financial harm for many during this outbreak, that this Commission and the residents of Franklin County must do all it can to place the protection and well-being of Franklin County residents above all other competing interests; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners have already taken multiple preventative steps in the effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, this Commission in cooperation with the Governor have actively promoted community wide social distancing and have closed all beaches and support the governor's orders heavily restricting access to dining, shopping and leisure activities; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners have identified the limited material and human resources available to our residents and equally as important for those charged with caring for our residents during the initial stages of this pandemic; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the County Commission of Franklin County, of the State of Florida, with unanimous support and great conviction state the following:

1. The Board will continue to support and recommend the closing of its beaches and other public attractions and places of group gatherings and congregation and minimize and limit public exposure until it is a safe environment for all our residents and future visitors.
2. Franklin County as a small rural community cannot manage nor support an influx of visitors beyond its current ability to manage and serve the residents of Franklin County with the limited resources and limited medical system within

the current pandemic.

3. Franklin County Board of County Commissioners emphatically advises ALL VISITORS (regardless of day trips and extended stays) to stay home in their primary communities, and thereby staying healthy and safe with the proper resources and health care system in place to assist them through this pandemic.

4. Franklin County Board of County Commissioners recognizing the growing number of clusters and spread for the pandemic with additional states and regions being added by President Trump, responsible federal agencies and Governor DeSantis' executive orders on a day to day basis, hereby advise and direct any and all individuals that enter Franklin County to a mandatory self-quarantine for no less than the CDC guidelines of fourteen (14) days upon entry into Franklin County. This list currently includes any and all international locations as well as New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, California, Washington, Georgia and Louisiana and any additional states or regions hereinafter identified.

5. A copy of the Resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and filed with the Clerk of Court.

6. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at this special meeting of the Franklin County Commission, State of Florida, held on the 27th, day of March, 2020.

Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

By: s/Noah Lockley
Noah Lockley, Jr., Its Chairman

Attest:

s/Marcia M. Johnson
Marcia M. Johnson, Franklin County
Clerk of Court

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

s/Thomas M. Shuler
Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney

6. Armory - Cancellation of April and future events on a month to month basis until further notice

Mr. Moron stated the Board gave him authority to cancel all events for this month. He requested authorization to cancel everything for April and allow him to do this on a month by month basis until they tell him to stop. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to cancel all events at the Armory for the month of April and allow Mr. Moron to go from month to month until they tell him to stop.**

Mr. Moron said he is receiving feedback that the software is working well for the meeting and the sound is clear. He stated the just have to work out the issue with the capacity.

Commissioners' Comments

There were no Commissioners' comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts