

Greg Edds, Chairman
Jim Greene, Vice-Chairman
Mike Caskey
Judy Klusman
Craig Pierce



Aaron Church, County Manager
Carolyn Barger, Clerk to the Board
John W. Dees, II, County Attorney

Rowan County Board of Commissioners

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COUNTY OF ROWAN, NORTH CAROLINA DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person to person; *and*

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic March 11, 2020; *and*

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing COVID-19 a 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"); *and*

WHEREAS, ON March 13, 2020, the President of the United States pursuant to Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C § 1601, *et seq.* and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C § 1320b-5), declared a national emergency that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020; *and*

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has warned of the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 globally and in the United States and has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict travel to areas designated by the CDC; *and*

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act; *and*

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 117 which prohibited mass gatherings of more than one hundred (100) people in the State of North Carolina and closed K-12 public schools to limit the spread of COVID-19; *and*

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") updated their guidance for large events and mass gatherings, and recommended that for the next eight (8) weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of fifty (50) people or more through the United States; *and*

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the White House issued new guidelines called The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America – 15 Days to Slow the Spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), calling on people to "avoid social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people"; *and*

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 118 which limited the sale of food and beverages, to Carry-out, Drive-Through, and Delivery only in the State to limit the spread of COVID-19; *and*

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") confirmed that the number of cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina continues to rise; *and*

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WHEREAS, as a result of the above-described emergency, I have determined that there is a imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities will be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; *and*

WHEREAS, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Rowan County Board of Commissioners under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Chapter 8.25, Article III of the Rowan County Code of Ordinances:

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within Rowan County as more particularly described in Section 2.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this State of Emergency shall be all areas within the jurisdiction of Rowan County, North Carolina.

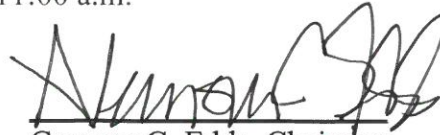
Section 3. No restrictions or prohibitions are imposed at this time.

Section 4. I hereby request that Rowan County Sheriff Kevin Auten and all personnel under his command, hereby order that all emergency management and public safety personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Rowan County Emergency Operations Plan.

Section 5. I hereby order this Declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with the Clerk to the Rowan County Board of Commissioners; and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Declaration.

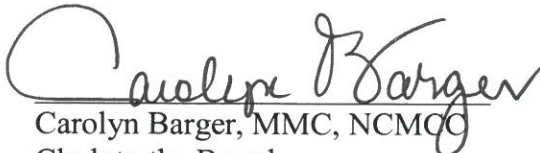
Section 6. This Declaration shall take effect on March 20, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 20th day of March, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.



Gregory C. Edds, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Carolyn Barger, MMC, NCMOC
Clerk to the Board

