

## RESOLUTION 62-2020

### DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic is causing widespread human and economic impacts to unincorporated Washington County, Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 a "pandemic;" and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Federal Emergency Declaration for the Coronavirus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 Pandemic is causing a public health emergency in unincorporated Washington County by generating multiple disruptions and impacts on healthcare infrastructure and continuity of Washington County government that may cause delays or interrupt capacity to deliver necessary services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington County Office of Emergency Management has advised the Board of County Commissioners of Washington (Board) of a disaster (as the term is defined in the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, § 24-33.5-701 *et seq.*, C.R.S.) currently present in the unincorporated area of Washington County, Colorado, to wit, the occurrence of imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate and in the interests of the public health and safety to rapidly address community spread of COVID-19 and subsequent cascading impacts such as economic distress, and would further protect the health and safety of the public, to declare an emergency in unincorporated Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic is far in excess of Washington County's available resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic cost and magnitude of the State ordered closing of all restaurants, bars, gyms and theaters by Governor Jared Polis; and

**WHEREAS**, declaration of a local disaster emergency will assist and permit access to local emergency funds, Federal and State assistance, adjustments to policies, procedures, and ordinances to ensure the public's health and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, an Emergency Declaration allows Washington County to be able to take proactive measures and activate our Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to better respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 event; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has remotely activated its Emergency Operations Center, and the Board of County Commissioners now seeks to declare a local disaster, in addition to other steps outlined below, to address the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington County Emergency Manager and Northeast Colorado Public Health Director have recommended that a local disaster be declared; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chair of the Board, as principal executive officer of Washington County, is authorized to unilaterally declare a local disaster pursuant to § 24-33.5-709, C.R.S., and to activate the emergency management and operations plans and resolutions of Washington County. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. There is hereby declared to be a local disaster emergency in the unincorporated area of Washington County, Colorado, to wit, the occurrence of imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property, resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage.
2. The effect of this Declaration shall be to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the principal executive officers of all cities and towns in Washington County affected by said disaster are urged to proclaim similar declarations and to cooperate with Washington County as necessary to address the emergency conditions.


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Declaration shall be effective upon the date and time given below, and shall remain in effect until further notice unless rescinded by the Washington County Board of County Commissioners.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that true copies shall be promptly filed with the Washington County Clerk and Recorder and the Colorado Division of Emergency Management, and shall be promptly distributed to the appropriate representatives of the news media.

ADOPTED on Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, COLORADO**

  
Tony N. Wells, Chairman

  
Lea Ann Laybourn, Commissioner

  
Leland Willeke, Commissioner

I, Annie Kuntz, County Clerk and Recorder in and for the County of Washington, State of Colorado, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Washington and State of Colorado, in a special session on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
Annie Kuntz  
County Clerk and Recorder

