



# WASHOE COUNTY

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

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### WASHOE COUNTY DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY CONCERNING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

March 16, 2020

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza;

WHEREAS, in late 2019, a new and significant outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in China;

WHEREAS, the outbreak has since spread outside of China to over 100 countries throughout the world, including the United States;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Nevada Governor Sisolak declared a state of emergency and ordered the closure of all public schools as a safeguard against further spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, 45 individuals in the State of Nevada have tested positive for COVID-19, including 9 residents of Washoe County, with a high potential for an increase in the number of affected individuals;

WHEREAS, the potential for rapid spread of COVID-19, coupled with its severity, raises the specter of local healthcare and other resources becoming strained and overwhelmed, potentially further exacerbating the spread of the disease and the severity of its impacts, particularly in vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Washoe County remain safe and secure;

WHEREAS, Washoe County Code 65.320 empowers the County Manager to declare a state of emergency and seek ratification by the Board of County Commissioners when timely action cannot be taken by the Board of Commissioners when any man-made or natural event or circumstance is causing or threatening loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering or financial loss to the extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare;

WHEREAS, disease is specifically listed as one possible reason for the existence of an emergency in the county under WCC 65.300(4);

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Washoe is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has been requested by the Emergency Management Administrator of Washoe County to proclaim the existence of a local emergency therein;

WHEREAS, to the extent allowed by law, the County Manager finds that certain administrative functions require flexibility in staffing levels and assignments normally addressed in collective bargaining agreements and merit personnel systems;

WHEREAS, to the extent allowed by law, administrative leniency in the enforcement of ordinances, rules and regulations, purchasing, and other governmental functions will assist in the response and recovery of the emerging issues related to the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, these conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local state of emergency,

WHEREAS, the County Manager does hereby find that man-made or natural events or circumstances—including the outbreak and spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 infections and other potential and related events in Washoe County commencing on or about the 16th day of March, 2020, at approximately 3:00 p.m. are causing or threatening loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering or financial loss to the extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

NOW, FOR THE REASONS RECITED HEREIN, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED THAT A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS in Washoe County.

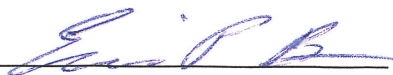
IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that during the existence of said local state of emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the County Manager, Emergency Management Administrator, and the Emergency Services System of this County shall be those prescribed by State Law (including but not limited to NRS chapter 414), by Ordinances (including but not limited to WCC chapter 65) and Resolutions of this County, and by the County of Washoe emergency plans.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, to the extent allowed by law, that County Department Heads are authorized within their areas of responsibility to issue waivers and exercise administrative leniency in the application and enforcement of County ordinances, rules and regulations, and County Department Heads have emergency powers to direct appropriate staffing levels within each department.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that said local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist unless a majority of the Board of County Commissioners, at its next lawful meeting, fails to ratify the declaration, or, if the declaration is ratified, until the County Manager or Board of Commissioners later determines the state of emergency no longer exists or the threat of an emergency has passed, and the County Manager or the Board of Commissioners terminates the state of emergency.

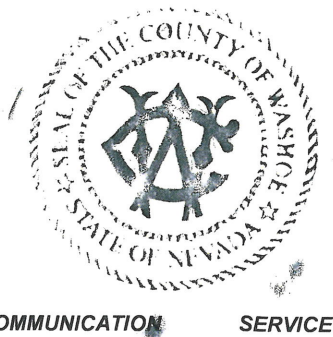
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that a copy of this declaration is forwarded to the Nevada Director of the Division of Emergency Management.

DATED: 3/16/2020

  
County Manager, Eric P. Brown  
Washoe County, Nevada

ATTEST:

  
Janis Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk



INTEGRITY

COMMUNICATION

SERVICE