

Columbus County

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DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY TO COORDINATE PROTECTIVE ACTIONS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is serious respiratory disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans which can result in serious illness or death and can spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization (“WHO”) on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has warned of the health threat posed by COVID-19 globally and in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 116 titled “Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared COVID-19 a pandemic of sufficient magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 117 titled “Prohibiting Mass Gatherings and Directing the Statewide Closure of K-12 Public Schools to Limit the Spread of COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 118 titled “Limiting Operations of Restaurants and Bars and Broadening Unemployment Insurance Benefits in Response to COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the President of the United States issued Executive Order No. 13909 titled “Prioritizing and Allocating Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 119 titled “Facilitating Critical Motor Vehicle Operations and Delegating Authority to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to Waive Regulations in Order to Expand Access to Child Care and Support Local Health Departments”; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 120 titled “Additional Limitations on Mass Gatherings, Restrictions on Venues and Long Term Care Facilities, and Extension of School Closure Date”; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with healthcare professionals and based upon guidance from the CDC and NCDHHS arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Columbus County remain safe and secure; 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 Board of Commissioners of Columbus County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Chapter 7 of the Columbus County Code of Ordinances:

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of Columbus County.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be all areas within the jurisdiction of Columbus County, North Carolina, including any municipality which has consented to such jurisdiction.

Section 3. I hereby order all County law enforcement officers and employees and all other emergency management 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 Columbus County Emergency Operations Plan.

Section 4. 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 Clerk to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 5. This declaration shall take effect on March 24, 2020, at 11:00 am and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 24th day of March, 2020, at 11:00am

P. Edwin Russ

P. Edwin Russ,
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Jane B. Hall

Jane Hall, Clerk to the
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

