

RESOLUTION NO. 15888

A **RESOLUTION** of the Board of County Commissioners extending the declaration of a local emergency in Resolution 15880 and amending Resolution 15882 to extend the closure of County Facilities.

WHEREAS, On January 21, 2020 the Washington State Department of Health confirmed the first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in Snohomish County, Washington, and local health departments and the Washington State Department of Health have since that time worked to identify, contact, and test others in Washington State potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death to vulnerable or at-risk populations, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, On February 29, 2020, the Governor of the state of Washington adopted Proclamation 20-05 and proclaimed that a State of Emergency exists for all counties in the State of Washington as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020 the Governor signed Proclamation 20-06 addressing risks to persons living in congregate care settings and imposing certain restrictions in all counties in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the Governor signed Proclamation 20-07 imposing restrictions on large gatherings in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties and prohibited the following activities in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties related to social, spiritual, and recreational gatherings, which restrictions shall remain in effect until midnight on March 31, 2020, unless extended beyond that date: Gatherings of 250 people or more for social, spiritual, and recreational activities, including but not limited to community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; conventions; fundraisers; and similar activities; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a state of pandemic due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Board Resolution 15880 proclaiming a state of emergency within Thurston County due to COVID-19 which expires on April 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Board adopted Resolution No. 15882 closing all County Facilities to the public from Thursday March 19, 2020, through April 3, 2020, except for certain criminal justice agencies; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee adopted Proclamation 20-25 imposing a Stay Home — Stay Healthy Order throughout Washington State prohibiting all people in Washington State from leaving their homes, except to conduct or participate in essential activities and /or for employment in essential business services; participating in social, spiritual and recreational gatherings of any kind regardless of the number of participants; and prohibiting all non-essential businesses in Washington State from conducting business, until midnight on April 6, 2020, unless extended beyond that date; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2020, Governor Inslee adopted Proclamation 20-25.1 extending the Stay Home- Stay Healthy Order until midnight on May 4, 2020 as a result of increasing rates of COVID-19 related infections, hospitalizations and death; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2020, Governor Inslee adopted Proclamation 20-09.1 extending school closures until June 19, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 Thurston County had one confirmed case of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of April 13, 2020, Thurston County had 81 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1 death;

WHEREAS, as of April 10, 2020, State Department of Health was reporting at least 10,224 confirmed cases in Washington State with 491 associated deaths statewide and models predict that many hospitals in Washington State may reach capacity or become overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients within the next few weeks unless we significantly slow its spread throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as “high”, and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 within Thurston County; and

WHEREAS, the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of Thurston County is at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk; and

WHEREAS, a large surge in the number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the regional healthcare system to deliver necessary healthcare to the public; and

WHEREAS, in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and in the interest of protecting the public health and safety of its residents and employees, the Board strongly believes it is necessary to continue to extend the declaration of a local emergency and keep County Facilities closed to the public; and

WHEREAS, the County's extended declaration of a local emergency will continue to allow the County to undertake emergency purchases pursuant to RCW 36.32.270 and RCW 39.04.280 when such purchases require immediate action in the event of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the County's declaration of a local emergency will continue to allow the County, pursuant to RCW 42.30.070, if, by reason of the declared emergency, there is need for expedited action by a governing body to meet the emergency, the presiding officer of the governing body may provide for a meeting site other than the regular meeting site and the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act shall be suspended during such emergency; and

WHEREAS, the conditions stated above constitute an emergency for Thurston County, necessitating continual activation of the Thurston County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to RCW 36.40.180, 38.52.070(2), and 38.52.110(1).

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Thurston County, Washington, does resolve as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby declared a continued emergency, as defined in the Thurston County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (PLAN), due to the worldwide and local outbreak of COVID-19 and for all the reasons stated in the Governor's Proclamations issued through April 13, 2020.

Section 2. Pursuant to the emergency declared at Section 1, County departments and offices, as designated pursuant to the PLAN, are authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such emergency to protect the health and safety of persons, property, and the environment, and provide emergency assistance to the victims of such emergency, consistent with the PLAN.

Section 3. The Thurston County Manager is authorized to make and adjust Human Resources Policies related to leave usage and other issues related to employees as necessitated by the impacts of COVID-19.

Section 4. Pursuant to RCW 42.03.070 all meetings of the Board of Health and Board of County

Commissioners relating to the COVID-19 emergency are not required to meet the notice requirements, and meeting location restrictions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Section 5. Resolution 15882, Section 2, is amended as follows: Public access is closed to all County Facilities, with the exception of the Sherriff, Prosecuting Attorney, District Court, Superior Court, the Clerk's Office, and County Trails, from April 3, 2020 through May 15, 2020; All other sections of Resolution 15882 shall remain in place through May 15, 2020.

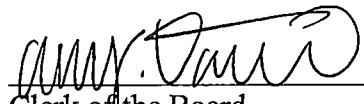
Section 6. The proclamation of a local emergency set forth at Section 1 shall terminate at midnight, on May 31, 2020.

Section 7. Resolution 15882 (modification of business hours of county offices and departments), and Sections 5 and 6 of this Resolution shall be rescinded, without further action of the Board, if the Governor does not extend his Stay Home-Stay Healthy Order beyond May 4, 2020.

Section 8. This resolution shall become effective immediately.

ADOPTED: April 14, 2020

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON


JOHN HUTCHINGS, Chair


TYE MENSER, Vice-Chair


GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JON TUNHEIM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY


Elizabeth Petrich
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney