

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION #2020-16

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING AN EMERGENCY OR DISASTER DUE TO THE COVID-19 FLU VIRUS OUTBREAK

WHEREAS, On January 21, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health confirmed the first case of the 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, 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, 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, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and **WHEREAS**, The CDC currently indicates there are 85,688 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide with 66 of those cases in the United States, and the Washington State Department of Health has now confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Washington State’s general public and creating an extreme public health risk that may spread quickly; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Department of Health has instituted a Public Health Incident Management Team to manage the public health aspects of the incident; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Military Department, State Emergency Operations Center, is coordinating resources across state government to support the Department of Health and local officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is assessing the magnitude and long-term effects of the incident with the Washington State Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, The worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Washington State significantly impacts the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of

Washington State, and is a public disaster that affects life, health, property or the public peace.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Columbia County Commissioners that:

1. There is a declared emergency in the county due to the COVID-19 virus;
2. County departments are authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat this emergency, protect health and safety of persons and property, and provide emergency assistance to the victims of this emergency; and
3. Other actions as deemed appropriate by the Director of Emergency Management or his designee;
4. Due to the emergency situation, departments exercising the authority in paragraphs 2 and 3 above may do so without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements);
5. This Resolution shall remain in effect until the issuance of a Termination Resolution by the Board of Columbia County Commissioners.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, State of Washington, on this 9th day of March, 2020.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COLUMBIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



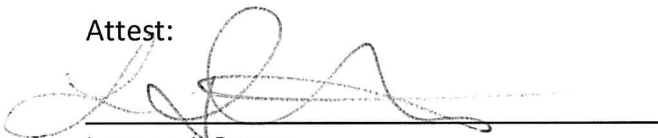
Charles L. Amerein, Chairman

Ryan R. Rundell, Commissioner



Michael A. Talbott, Commissioner

Attest:



Leanne J. Peters
Clerk of the Board



Prosecuting Attorney