

**CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-01  
DECLARATION OF PANDEMIC EMERGENCY  
(COVID-19)**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ron DeSantis has issued Executive Order 20-51 on March 1, 2020 declaring a public health emergency as the result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and,

**WHEREAS**, as the virus spread Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 on March 9, 2020 declaring a general state of emergency in all the counties of the state; and,

**WHEREAS**, President Donald Trump has declared a National State of Emergency on March 13, 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus; and,

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has determined that the COVID-19 virus is a global pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is no vaccine to prevent the spread of the virus and the virus has the potential to overwhelm the healthcare system unless the transmission of the virus is reduced by limiting the opportunities for the virus to be spread from person to person; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease control have issued certain guidance restricting the size of gatherings and such guidance continues to change on a rapid basis; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the United States has 3,244 Confirmed cases and 62 deaths. The State of Florida has 115 confirmed cases and 4 deaths. At present Alachua County is known to have 4 confirmed cases; and,

**WHEREAS**, the number of suspected and diagnosed cases in the State of Florida and specifically Alachua County is expected to climb; and,

**WHEREAS**, a major contributor to the spread of the virus is through transmittal by way of travel and Interstate 75 and U.S. Highways 441 and 301 all have a major presence within the City of Gainesville; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health is the lead agency in events such as this, it may become necessary to use the City's emergency powers to assist the Department of Health or to take actions to prepare for an extended presence of the virus in the City Of Gainesville; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Of Gainesville began preparing for and expending funds and resources to mitigate this pandemic upon the Governor of the State of Florida's issuance of Executive Order 20-51 on March 1, 2020 declaring a general state of emergency in all the counties of the state; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Lauren B. Poe, as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, Florida, in accordance with the powers vested in me pursuant to Section 2.08 of the Charter Laws of the City of Gainesville, as adopted by Chapter 90-394, Laws of Florida, as amended; Sec. 2-67 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Gainesville, Florida; and the powers authorized pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes; and based upon the above:

Hereby proclaim the existence of a local state of emergency in the City of Gainesville, Florida, arising out of the pandemic COVID-19 which poses a threat to the health and safety of persons and property.

This local state of emergency shall commence at 5:18pm on March 16, 2020 and shall terminate at 11:59 p.m. on March 23, 2020; unless earlier revoked in writing by the Mayor, in consultation with the City Manager.

This Declaration orders and issues the following executive measure(s) in the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, as follows:

- X Provisions of the labor agreement between the City of Gainesville and the IAFF are suspended in accordance with Article 8.3 during the pendency of the this Declaration of Emergency.
- X The City Manager is designated and authorized to take any action authorized under Florida Statutes section 252.38 in dealing with this Emergency.
- X The City Manager is designated and authorized to enact and rescind curfews or to limit assemblies throughout the municipal boundaries of the City of Gainesville, at such time as is necessary to protect and preserve the health, safety and welfare of the persons and property within the City and is deemed necessary to reduce the vulnerability of the people in the City Of Gainesville. During the period of the curfew, all persons not involved in public safety or emergency service activities shall remain in their places of residence and shall not be or remain in public places. All pedestrian and vehicular movement, standing and parking, except for provisions of fire, police, emergency and hospital services, medical patients, utility emergency repairs and emergency calls by physicians within the curfew area are prohibited during curfew hours. Retail establishments requiring re-supply in order to provide essential services or products, i.e., home

improvement, groceries, fuel delivery locations, pharmacies or other retailers offering emergency supplies, transportation of fuels, movement of equipment and personnel for the provision of humanitarian support, and movement of equipment necessary for the protection of critical infrastructure or public safety are exceptions.

X Designate and authorize the City Manager, or his designee(s), to take any and all action under the current version of the City of Gainesville City Emergency Operations Plan necessary for the protection and preservation of the health, welfare and safety of the people and property (both public and private) within the City of Gainesville, Florida, including, the right to enter onto public and private property for such purposes.

X Designate and authorize the City Manager or the General Manager for Utilities, as appropriate, to suspend the labor agreements of the City.

X Designate and authorize the City Manager, or his designee(s) and the General Manager for Utilities, or his designee(s), as appropriate, to waive the policies, procedures and formalities otherwise required of the City, pertaining to:

- (a) performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the City;
- (b) entering into contracts;
- (c) incurring obligations;
- (d) Human Resources policies, including but not limited to employment of permanent and temporary workers and the utilization of volunteer workers;
- (e) Rental of equipment;
- (f) Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities; and
- (g) Appropriate and expenditure of public funds.

Any person violating any executive order issued pursuant to this Declaration or any person who willfully fails or refuses to comply with the order or orders of any duly authorized law enforcement officer or personnel charged with the responsibility of the enforcement of such executive order shall, upon conviction therefore, be punished as provided by law. Violation of "any order or rule" imposed in an emergency situation is a second-degree misdemeanor per Section 252.50, Florida Statutes.

Done and ordered at Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, on March 16, 2020.



---

LAUREN B. POE  
MAYOR