

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 20-03-17-06

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A LOCAL
EMERGENCY AS A RESULT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared COVID-19 to be a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Oregon has declared COVID-19 a statewide public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners is also the Board of Health and as such possesses the duties and powers as set out in ORS Chapter 431; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Disease Control has issued guidelines related to COVID-19 which state that if individuals are in high-risk categories, they should follow recommended hygiene protocols, stay at home when ill, and follow social distancing practices whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a health risk to Lane County residents, visitors and first responders which could extend for several months; and

WHEREAS, school closures, essential services to vulnerable populations, economic impacts to the local businesses, and public agency disruptions throughout Lane County are resulting from the threat of COVID-19 and will continue to exacerbate jurisdictions' ability to provide typical services including critical life and safety services; and

WHEREAS, local medical supply resources are being rapidly expended and may be insufficient to respond to the situation as it evolves; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 response requires the immediate and significant expenditures of resources at the local level for response in order to keep the public informed and safe. Resources related to contact tracing, disease investigation, community information and public safety are expected to be exhausted; and

WHEREAS, ORS 401.305 provides authority for Lane County to act as an emergency management agency and includes authority to establish policies and protocols for defining and directing responsibilities during time of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has enacted a local ordinance (County Code Chapter 20.015) pursuant to the authority granted by ORS Chapter 401, that provides for executive responsibility in times of emergency and specifically delegates authority to declare a state

of emergency to the County Chair, Vice-Chair (if Chair is unavailable), Remaining Board Member(s) (if Vice Chair is unavailable) and County Administrator or designee (if Remaining Board Member(s) is unavailable); and

WHEREAS, Lane County Code Chapter 20 and ORS 401.309 further authorize certain actions be taken during a state of emergency when necessary for public safety or for the efficient conduct of activities to minimize or mitigate the effects of the emergency; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has initially responded, but concludes that the state of emergency is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a Local Emergency Declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. That a local emergency exists as defined in Lane Code Chapter 20 throughout all of Lane County; and
2. The County Administrator is authorized under Lane Code Chapter 20 to spend up to \$750,000 in responding to the effects of the COVID-19. Further, the County Administrator is delegated authority to exercise his discretion regarding the allocation of specific resources. and,
3. This Declaration of Local Emergency shall remain in effect for 60 days unless extended or terminated earlier by the Board.

ADOPTED this 17th day of March, 2020



Heather Buch, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners