

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 20-12-15-08

IN THE MATTER OF EXTENDING THE
DECLARATION OF 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 has declared COVID-19 a Lane County public health emergency on March 17, 2020 with Board Order 20-03-17-06; 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 with historically high case counts; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has experience continued closures or restrictions to government and non-government services, which compromises 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, Community partners as well as Community Based Organizations (CBO) contracts are set to be reevaluated prior to expiring on 12/30/20; and

WHEREAS, local medical supply resources may be insufficient to respond to the situation as it evolves; with continued spikes and rise in positive COVID19 cases in Lane County and neighboring Counties; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 response and recovery requires the immediate and significant expenditures of resources at the local level for response in order the 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, CARES funding will end of life on 12/30/20, FEMA could potentially reimburse for COVID related expenses post CARES expiration; 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, the best information currently available indicates initial COVID vaccines will be will be available for distribution to front line workers as early as December 2020, and

WHEREAS, the continued state of emergency remains of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an extension of the Local Emergency Declaration.

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

1. That a local emergency declared by the Board of Commissioners on March 17, 2020 in Board Order 20-03-17-06, and was extended 60 days on 20-05-12-08, on 20-07-07-14, and on 20-09-01-03 extended until December 30th, 2020, will continue to exist as defined in Lane Code Chapter 20 throughout all of Lane County; and
2. The County Administrator remains authorized under Lane Code Chapter 20 and Board Order 20-03-31-09 to spend up to \$5,000,000 in responding to the effects of the COVID-19; and,
3. This extension of the Declaration of Local Emergency shall remain in effect until March 1st, 2021, unless extended or terminated earlier by the Board.

ADOPTED this 15th day of December, 2020.



Heather Buch, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners