

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN
CATOOSA COUNTY DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESULTING
FROM COVID 19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC; RATIFYING
AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS; AND AUTHORIZING AND
IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, both the United States and the State of Georgia have experienced an outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019) which has caused a rapidly evolving and continuing threat to the health, safety and welfare of members of general public, which includes the citizens of Catoosa County; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, on January 31, 2020, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services issued a declaration of a public health emergency in the United States and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization issued a declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, also as a result of the foregoing, the President of the United States has declared a National Emergency and, on March 14, 2020, the Governor of the State of Georgia has declared a Public Health Emergency (as that term is defined under O.C.G.A. §38-3-3(6)) throughout the State of Georgia¹; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-2019 outbreak and related public health emergency, it has been necessary for the County Manager, Department Heads and staff of Catoosa County and its various Departments direct the closure of certain County facilities, to suspend and/or restrict certain County services and to take certain other actions which are necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Catoosa County and its citizens prior to obtaining required approvals by the Board of Commissioners; and

¹ The Supreme Court of Georgia also issued its Declaration, as Amended, on March 14, 2020, declaring a Judicial Emergency (as that term is O.C.G.A. §38-3-60(2)) to restrict activity in the courts and judicial system throughout the State, including Catoosa County.

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-2019 outbreak and related public health emergency, it is anticipated that the County Manager, Department Heads and staff of Catoosa County will be required to take future additional actions, including those which are extraordinary in nature and outside the scope of normal County operating policies and procedures, but which are or may be necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Catoosa County and its citizens during the rapidly evolving circumstances and events which transpire during the public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Catoosa County has in place certain Ordinances contained in Chapter 20 of the Catoosa County Code of Ordinances which may be implemented in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Catoosa County in the event of a disaster or other state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, by this Resolution, the Board of Commissioners desires to declare a state of emergency in Catoosa County as a result of the COVID-2019 outbreak and related public health emergency in order to implement the enforcement of certain County Ordinances and to ratify and authorize certain actions previously taken in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of Catoosa County and its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Catoosa County Board of Commissioners as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners finds that the COVID-2019 outbreak and related public health emergency constitute a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency in the unincorporated areas of Catoosa County as that term is defined under O.C.G.A. §38-3-3(6) and §20-26(b)(3) of the Catoosa County Code of Ordinances; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Catoosa County Board of Commissioners hereby declares a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency (as defined above) in the unincorporated areas of Catoosa County commencing from and after March 14, 2020, and continuing until such time as the Board of Commissioners deems that the threat and danger to the health, safety and welfare of Catoosa County and its citizens is abated and passes a Resolution suspending or terminating the State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Catoosa County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies and approves any and all actions taken by the County Manager, Department Heads, and staff of Catoosa County and its various Departments to protect the health, safety and welfare of Catoosa County and its citizens during and in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and related public health emergency and which have not been previously approved by the Board of Commissioners; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Catoosa County Board of Commissioners hereby implements and authorizes the enforcement of the Emergency Ordinances contained in Chapter 20, "Civil Emergencies", of the Catoosa County Code of Ordinances and said Ordinances are hereby implemented, declared effective and enforceable from and after March 14, 2020, and continuing until such time as they are suspended by the Board of Commissioners; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Catoosa County Board of Commissioners further acknowledges the availability of the powers and procedures available to the County and its staff under applicable State law (O.C.G.A. §38-3-1, et. seq.) during the pending public health emergency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Catoosa County Board of Commissioners further authorizes the County Manager, Department Heads and staff to take such actions, for and on behalf of the County and the Board of Commissioners, and as are or may be necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Catoosa County during the time of emergency, all as authorized under O.C.G.A. §38-3-1, et. seq. and under the County Code of Ordinances; and

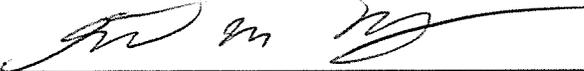
FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Manager is directed to coordinate and otherwise work with other Constitutional Officers and Elected Officials of the County and such other State and local agencies to implement and carry out such plans as may be necessary and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Catoosa County during the time of emergency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Manager shall keep the Board of Commissioners and its Chairman apprised from time to time on the actions taken pursuant to this Resolution and shall present any such matters to the Board of Commissioners for approval and/or ratification when required, and as time and circumstances permit.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

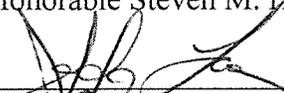
SO RESOLVED this 17th day of March, 2020.

CATOOSA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: 

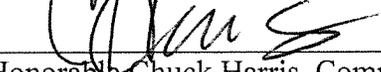
Honorable Steven M. Henry, Chairman

ATTEST:

BY: 

Honorable Jeff Long, Commissioner

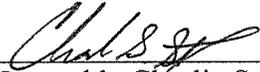
Melissa Hannah,
Clerk

BY: 

Honorable Chuck Harris, Commissioner

BY: 

Honorable Jim Cutler, Commissioner

BY: 

Honorable Charlie Stephens, Commissioner