

Columbia County Board of County Commissioners

Resolution No. 2024R-14

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECLARING A
LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO MAY 2024
SEVERE WEATHER EVENT.**

WHEREAS, the National Hurricane Center has recognized the danger to residents and visitors of Florida from **2024 SEVERE WEATHER EVENT (2024 SWE)** that came through on Friday, May 10, 2024. It came through all of Columbia County;

WHEREAS, **2024 SWE** caused damage to public utilities, public buildings, public communication systems, public streets and roads, public drainage systems, and commercial and residential buildings and areas;

WHEREAS, Columbia County has been conducting debris pickup, since **2024 SWE** passed through our county;

WHEREAS, Columbia County experienced extended power outages due to **2024 SWE**;

WHEREAS, Columbia County was included in Governor's Executive Order 24-95; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, provides for emergency management powers of political subdivisions like Columbia County while under a Local State of Emergency to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions by law pertaining to:

1. Performance of public work and taking whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;
2. Entering into contracts;
3. Incurring obligations;
4. Employment of permanent and temporary workers;
5. Utilization of volunteer workers;
6. Rental of equipment;
7. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities; and
8. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida in an emergency session duly assembled this 15 day of May, 2024 that **2024 SWE** posed a serious threat to the lives and property of residents and visitors to Columbia County and that a Local State of Emergency is hereby immediately declared for all the unincorporated and incorporated territory within the legal boundaries of Columbia County, Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners hereby invokes and shall exercise its authority provided by §252.38(3), Florida Statutes and the Home Rule Charter for Columbia County, Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Local State of Emergency will be in effect until any multi-jurisdictional state of emergency that includes Columbia County and relates to **2024 SWE** is lifted or for a period of seven (7) days from the date hereof, whichever period is longer, unless the Board votes to end it earlier. If a quorum cannot be achieved for purposes of enacting this Resolution, or if a quorum cannot be obtained to consider any subsequent modifications, alterations, or renewals and imminent emergency conditions exist which threaten this County in the absence of such action, then the Chair, or Vice-Chair if the Chair is unavailable, may sign this resolution or a renewal hereof subject to later ratification by a proper quorum of the Board.

Commissioner _____ moved for adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner _____. Upon roll call, the vote was:

- _____ District 1 – Ronald Williams
- _____ District 2 – Rocky Ford
- _____ District 3 – Robby Hollingsworth
- _____ District 4 – Everett Phillips
- _____ District 5 – Tim Murphy

So resolved this 15 day of May, 2024.

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Williams, Chairman

Approved as to form:

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

ATTEST: _____
James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Court