



Board Summary Report

Date: March 16, 2020
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Tyler S. Brown, Sheriff
From: **Nathan Fogg, OEM Manager Office of Emergency Management**
Subject: Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency

Request and Recommendation

The Sheriff's Office requests the Board of County Commissioners adopt a resolution ratifying and continuing the Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency (hereinafter "Declaration") signed by the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners on or about March 13, 2020.

Background

The COVID-19 (the coronavirus) outbreak was recently classified by the World Health Organization as a pandemic that is spreading across the globe. Colorado is currently experiencing a rise in presumptive positive cases, including within Arapahoe County. Although a high percentage of individuals affected by COVID-19 will experience mild flu-like symptoms, some will have more serious symptoms and require hospitalization, and the response and containment efforts will draw on available local, state and county resources. Additionally, given the complexity of the response and containment efforts, the rapid growth rate COVID-19 has demonstrated in other parts of the globe and United States, and the duration of the anticipated response, it is imperative that there is an organized and coordinated response between multiple municipal, county, state and federal partners, including school districts and other community services across multiple disciplines and a large geographic area. Ratifying and continuing the Declaration will enable the Office of Emergency Management to continue to help lead and coordinate containment and response efforts within Arapahoe County.

On March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado declared a state of emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak and has since issued several executive orders concerning the response and containment efforts. Additionally, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak.

Discussion

Pursuant to § 24-33.5-709, C.R.S., a "local disaster may be declared only by the principal executive officer" of the county. The declaration is valid for seven days, but may be continued with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1). The

effect of the declaration is to activate response and recovery plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(2).

On or about March 13, 2020 as Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, Nancy Sharpe issued a Declaration of Local Disaster. A copy of the Declaration is attached for your convenience. The purpose of the consent agenda item is to ratify the Declaration and continue it, since it otherwise expires seven days after issuance. The continuation of the Declaration is desirable in order to ensure that Arapahoe County can take the lead in coordinating the response and recovery efforts related to COVID-19, to unlock resources necessary for such response and recover efforts, and to help ensure that individuals, businesses and governmental entities within Arapahoe County may be eligible for state and/or federal financial aid related to disaster recovery efforts should such funds be made available. The proposed resolution states that the Declaration is ratified and shall remain in full force and effect until further action is taken by the Chairman of the Board to terminate or modify the Declaration. This is similar to other resolutions previously adopted by the Board that have ratified and extended prior emergency declarations in Arapahoe County.

Alternatives

The BOCC may take no action. However, this may impact the inclusion of Arapahoe County and incorporated areas within Arapahoe County on the list of entities eligible for state or federal assistance.

Fiscal Impact

If state and federal disaster response funds become available the County this process, if successfully concluded, may result in a portion of the County’s disaster recovery costs being reimbursed.

Attorney Comments

None

Concurrence

The Command Staff of the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office are in concurrence with the decision to ratify and extend the Declaration.

Reviewed By:

Nathan Fogg, OEM Manager, Office of Emergency Management

Tyler S. Brown, Sheriff

County Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. _____ It was moved by Commissioner _____ and duly seconded by Commissioner _____ to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, due to the global outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and the spread of presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 throughout Colorado, including in Arapahoe County, an imminent threat to public health exists given that although a high percentage of individuals affected by COVID-19 will experience mild flu-like symptoms, some will have more serious symptoms and require hospitalization, and the response and containment efforts will draw on available local, state and county resources and threaten to strain available supply chains given the complexity and duration of the response, which involves complex coordination with multiple local, private and public municipal, county, state and federal partners, across multiple disciplines and a large geographic area, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, did, on March 13, 2020, execute a “Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency” (hereinafter “Declaration”); and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Declaration is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-33.5-709, the Declaration is valid for a period not to exceed seven days unless continued or renewed by the Board of County Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to continue the Declaration to ensure that response and recovery efforts can continue and financial aid, if such aid becomes available, may be made available to affected individuals, businesses and governmental entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Arapahoe County, that the Declaration is hereby ratified and continued by the Board, and shall remain in full force and effect until further action is taken by the Chairman or the Board to terminate or modify the Declaration.

The vote was:

Commissioner Conti, ; Commissioner Baker, ; Commissioner Holen, ; Commissioner Jackson, ; Commissioner Sharpe, .

The Chair declared the motion carried and so ordered.