BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON

In The Matter of Declaring a Local )
State of Emergency and Declaring ) ORDER No. D2020-042
Emergency Measures )

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

WHEREAS, Benton County has enacted a local ordinance (Benton County Code (BCC) Chapter 32) pursuant to the authority granted by ORS Chapter 401, which authorizes the Board of Commissioners, or specific office holders, to declare a state of emergency within the county or within a designated portion of the county and to establish procedures to prepare for and carry out activities which are necessary to prevent, minimize, respond to, or recover from an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions have resulted in the need for a state of emergency:

Oregon announced its first presumptive case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on February 28, 2020. On March 8, 2020 Oregon Governor Kate Brown declared a public health threat emergency. On March 11, the World Health Organization announced COVID-19 is a global pandemic. On March 12, Governor Brown banned large social, spiritual and recreational gatherings of 250 people or more, statewide. As reported on March 15, 2020, there are now 39 cases in Oregon and Benton County has impacts regarding some of those cases. The Oregon numbers are expected to continue to rise moving forward through the event.

WHEREAS, the following damage to life and property can be expected from the above conditions:

COVID-19 is an emerging disease and requires a great deal of resources at the local level for response in order to keep the public informed and safe as possible. Resources related to contact tracing, disease investigation community information and funding are expected to be exhausted.

WHEREAS, the entire County is in a state of emergency.

WHEREAS, BCC Chapter 32 and ORS 401.309 authorize certain actions to 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

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Benton County formally declares a state of emergency for Benton County, effective on this 17th day of March, 2020, at noon for the area described above.
2. Upon this declaration of a state of emergency the undersigned officials, and the Sheriff, are empowered to assume centralized control of and have authority over all departments and offices of the County, and further the Benton County Sheriff's Office through its Emergency Management Division is empowered to carry out the appropriate functions and duties identified in BCC Chapter 32 during times of emergency and shall implement the Benton County Emergency Operations Plan.

3. Emergency Management and the Local Health Administrator shall take all necessary steps authorized by law to coordinate response and recovery from this emergency, including, but not limited to, requesting assistance from the State of Oregon.

4. Emergency procurements of goods or services are authorized pursuant to ORS 279B.080, ORS 279C.335(6), ORS 279C.380(4), and BCC Chapter 2.

5. With regard to county employees, the Board of Commissioners may authorize modification(s) to relevant personnel leave, payroll processes, and workplace requirements/designations as deemed necessary by the Board of Commissioners to address impacts associated with COVID-19.

6. The scope of this declaration is in support of the COVID-19 public health response being overseen and directed by the State of Oregon; the residents of Benton County are encouraged to follow standard hygiene protocols and stay at home when ill, but otherwise, where reasonable and safe, go on with daily life.

7. This declaration of emergency shall now expire at midnight June 30, 2020.

Adopted this 17th day of March, 2020.

Signed this 17th day of March, 2020.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Pat Malone, Chair

Xanthippe Algert, Commissioner

Annabelle Jaramillo, Commissioner

Approved as to Form:

Vance M. Croney, County Counsel

2 - ORDER DECLARING LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY, March 17, 2020