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RESOLUTION NO. 20- 332

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF EL PASO, STATE OF COLORADO

**RESOLUTION TO EXTEND LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION
OF EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO**

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 30-11-101(1) and 30-11-103, the Board of County Commissioners of El Paso County, Colorado, has the legislative authority to do all acts in relation to the property and concerns of the County, when deemed by the Board to be in the best interests of the County and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, a local disaster may be declared by the principal executive office of a political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified in Wuhan, China and has since spread throughout the world, to include the United States of America, and to include El Paso County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases are present in El Paso County, and have included the tragic deaths of El Paso County citizens due to the spread of virus, and El Paso County Public Health has acknowledged the community spread and disruption of typical health care services as a result of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), Pub.L 116-136, to help address the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States; and

WHEREAS on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado declared a State of Emergency through a verbal order and subsequent Executive Order D 2020 003; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, and as amended on March 27, 2020 and April 1, 2020, the Colorado Department of Health and Environment ("CDPHE") issued Public Health Order 20-24, implementing Stay at Home requirements for the State of Colorado; and on April 26, 2020, CDPHE issued Public Health Order 20-28 regarding Colorado's Safer at Home requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management, in consultation with El Paso County Public Health, has advised the Board that the

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presence of COVID-19 within El Paso County constitutes a “disaster” as the term is defined in the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703; and

WHEREAS, the presence of COVID-19 in El Paso County creates an unprecedented impact on the citizens of El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County, as well as to protect the economy of El Paso County, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, signed a declaration of a local disaster emergency for El Paso County, Colorado, on March 14, 2020, which was later approved by the Board, and subsequently extended up to and including September 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration permits activation of response and recovery aspects of any and all local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and will aid in the provision of resources to slow the spread of the disease, including but not limited to, permitting the County to request Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for emergency matters which may include expenses related to testing sites and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) purchases, as well as permitting Public Health to access necessary emergency resources; and

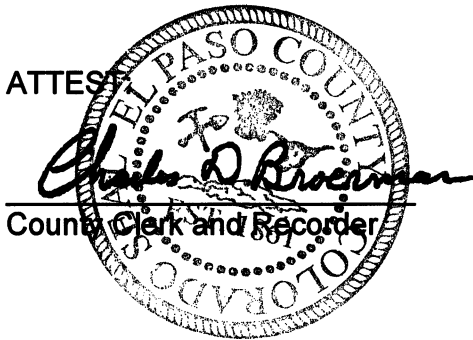
WHEREAS, the Board believes it is in the best interests of the citizens of El Paso County to further extend the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration for El Paso County for a period of time, up to and including, November 1, 2020.

NOW WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners hereby approves the Extension of Local Disaster Emergency Declaration up to and including November 1, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Declaration shall remain in effect for a period of time, up to and including November 1, 2020, thereafter except by or with the consent of a majority of the members of the Board.

Done this 15th day of September, 2020.

ATTEST



Board of County Commissioners of
El Paso County, Colorado

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Mark Waller", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "Mark Waller, Chair" is printed.

Mark Waller, Chair



COMMISSIONERS:
MARK WALLER (CHAIR)
LONGINOS GONZALEZ, JR. (VICE-CHAIR)

HOLLY WILLIAMS
STAN VANDERWERF
CAMI BREMER

EL PASO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, a local disaster may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a threat posed by the presence of Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") in El Paso County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel Coronavirus first identified during an outbreak in Wuhan, China in December 2019, and since then, COVID-19 has spread to several countries, including the United States of America, and more specifically, to several counties in the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso County Public Health Department ("EPCPH") has confirmed COVID-19 cases in El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, El Paso County Public Health surpassed multiple predetermined COVID-19 response "trigger points" to include community spread and disruption of typical health care services and response; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado, Jared Polis, declared a State of Emergency by and through a verbal order and subsequent written Executive Order D 2020 003, allowing subsequent State emergency rulemaking regarding specific industries; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado, Jared Polis, signed Public Health Order 20-24, requiring a stay-at-home order for the citizens of the State of Colorado, except for essential services; and on April 26, 2020, Governor Polis signed Public Health Order 20-28 implementing safer-at-home guidelines for the citizens of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Governor wrote, in part, that "[i]n the coming days, the State anticipates there will be additional presumptive positive cases" in Executive Order D 2020 003; and

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WHEREAS, the Director of the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management, in consultation with EPCPH, has advised the Board that the presence of COVID-19 within El Paso County constitutes a “disaster”, as that term is defined in the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act at C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703; and

WHEREAS, the presence of COVID-19 in El Paso County presents unique challenges and places strain upon local government, emergency and medical facilities and personnel; and

WHEREAS, the presence of COVID-19 in El Paso County has created an unprecedented impact on the healthcare system and disruption of social activities; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases of COVID -19 may continue to increase and the magnitude of the COVID-19 outbreak and the anticipated response and recovery costs exceed current operational resources available to El Paso County Government and all available resources are being utilized to protect the public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, a disaster emergency declaration permits the activation of the Medical Reserve Corps, to include the Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County as a qualified volunteer organization pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-8(D)(1), *et seq.*, is warranted at this time; and

WHEREAS, a disaster emergency declaration permits use of County Procurement Policy Section 3.1.4, permitting emergency purchases of equipment and supplies necessary to protect the public health, particularly the most vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS, a disaster emergency declaration permits the County to request Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for emergency matters which may include expenses related to testing sites and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) purchases; and

WHEREAS, a disaster emergency declaration permits the County and its clinical partners to establish sustainable protocols to slow the spread of the disease while minimizing effects on the workplace and the economy as a whole; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and in the interest of the public health and safety, and further protects the local economy, for the Chair of the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners to implement said recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners signed a Local Disaster Emergency Declaration on March 14, 2020, which was approved by the Board, and which was subsequently extended for additional periods of time, up to and including September 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes it is necessary to protect the public health safety and welfare by extending the disaster declaration for an additional period of time, up to and including November 1, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that there is hereby declared a local disaster emergency for El Paso County, Colorado, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, as may be amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the effect of this declaration is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such activation will provide resources to support delivery of credible, accurate, and reliable information to empower the public to slow the spread of the while living their lives with minimal disruption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk and Recorder, and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (CDHSEM).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this declaration shall be valid for a period of time, up to and including November 1, 2020, except by or with the consent of the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners.

DONE THIS 15th day of September, 2020, at Colorado Springs, El Paso County Colorado.

By: 

Mark Waller, Chair

Board of County Commissioners and
Principle Executive Officer

El Paso County