

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO: 2024-66**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN REFERENCE TO THE THREAT OF TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE MILTON; DIRECTING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO IMPLEMENT OKEECHOBEE COUNTY'S INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM TO ADDRESS AND RESOLVE INCIDENTS THAT MAY BE CAUSED BY TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE MILTON AND TO TAKE ALL PRUDENT ACTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE COUNTY PURSUANT TO THIS DECLARATION; WAVING PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES DURING THE PERIOD OF SUCH LOCAL EMERGENCY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS, Section 252.38 Florida Statutes, notes that safeguarding the life and property of its citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state; and**

**WHEREAS, Section 252.38(3) (a), Florida Statutes, empowers political subdivisions to declare a state of local emergency; and**

**WHEREAS, Section 252.38(3)(a), Florida Statutes, empowers political subdivisions to take certain actions, including the power and authority to assign and make available for duty the officers and agencies of the political subdivision, including the employees, property, or equipment thereof relating to firefighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services, police, transportation, construction, and similar items or services for emergency operations purposes, as the primary emergency management forces of the political subdivision for employment within or outside the political limits of the subdivision; and**

**WHEREAS, under Section 252.38(3)(a), Florida Statutes, Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners delegate or otherwise assign their command authority and emergency powers as deemed prudent to the County Administrator and/or designee the executive authority for all; and**

**WHEREAS, BOCC Resolution 2009-47 directs the use of the National Incident Management System as the county's system of preparing for and responding to disaster incidents, including the use of Incident Command System to establish an Incident Management Team to address hazards and threats facing the jurisdiction, and a delegation of authority to an Incident Commander; and**

**WHEREAS, on October 5, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-214 declaring a State of Emergency for several counties in the State of Florida, including Okeechobee County; and**

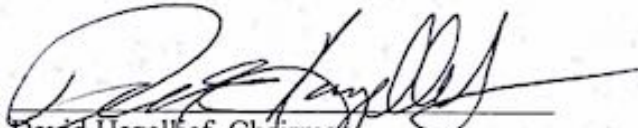
WHEREAS, Okeechobee County may be subjected to wind, flood and other damage due to the threat of Tropical Storm Milton which puts its citizens' lives, health, residences, property and businesses at significant risk; and

WHEREAS, the events of Tropical Storm Milton may therefore require expedient action to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

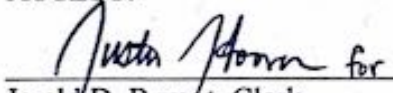
NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and as Chairman of the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, I hereby declare and enact a Local State of Emergency for all of Okeechobee County, and hereby further declare:

1. Okeechobee County's Local State of Emergency shall be for a period of seven (7) days, beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 6, 2024, and may be extended, as necessary, in 7-day increments.
2. The implementation of the County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is hereby approved.
3. The Chairman hereby appoints the Okeechobee County Administrator and/or designee as the Incident Commander for the Incident Management Team to coordinate the County's response efforts and supporting resources for these threats.
4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon execution.

RESOLVED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.

  
David Hazellief, Chairman  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

  
Jerald D. Bryant, Clerk  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA