

AN ORDER EXTENDING THE MARCH 18, 2020 DECLARATION OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and

WHEREAS, Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a state of emergency related to the outbreak of COVID-19 and urged citizens to practice social distancing protocols; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbot declared a state of emergency related to the outbreak of COVID-19 and suspended multiple state statutes and rules to promote social distancing protocols; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Local Health Authority and the City of Amarillo Public Health Department received confirmation of two cases of COVID-19 in the City of Amarillo; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, gatherings of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of the virus may pose a risk for the spread of infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of the COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Section 418.108 authorizes the Randall County Judge to declare a local state of disaster and exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Section 418.004(1) of the Texas Government Code defines disaster to be the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination, volcanic activity, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, riot, hostile military or paramilitary action, extreme heat, cybersecurity event, other public calamity requiring emergency action, or energy emergency; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of a local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk and promote the health and safety of individuals in Randall County; and

WHEREAS, the Randall County Judge has determined from the statements and information provided by the Office of the Texas Governor, the Local Health Authority for the Amarillo Area Public Health District, City of Amarillo Public Health Department

personnel, health professionals and other emergency service agencies serving Randall County, and other health agencies serving the State of Texas, that extraordinary measures must be taken to limit the development, contraction, and spread of COVID-19 in Randall County, Texas and to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens; and


WHEREAS, Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code provides that a local state of disaster may not be continued for a period in excess of seven days without the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONER'S COURT of Randall County:

1. That the state of disaster proclaimed for Randall County by the County Judge on March 18, 2020 shall continue for as long as the COVID-19 state of disaster proclaimed by Texas Governor Abbot remains in effect.

2. This order is passed as an emergency measure pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code.

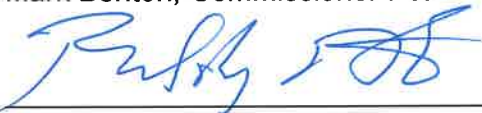
APPROVED, this 20th day of March, 2020.


Ernie Houdashell, County Judge


Christy Dyer, Commissioner Pct. 1


Mark Benton, Commissioner Pct. 2


Bob Robinson, Commissioner Pct. 3


Buddy DeFord, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest:


Susan Allen, County Clerk

