

**PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
EXECUTIVE ORDER
HURRICANE MILTON
Monday, October 7, 2024
Commencing at 8:00 a.m.**

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety, in his capacity as the County's Emergency Management Director, and the Clay County Emergency Operations Center have been monitoring the progress of a storm now identified as Hurricane Milton, which may affect Clay County, Florida through the next several days; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Management has reported to the County Manager that there is a high likelihood that the current and expected weather conditions may result in heavy rainfall, flash flooding, and creek flooding with a possibility of gusty winds and potential for isolated tornadic activity depending on the development of the storm, in Clay County, Florida, in the next few days, thus creating an emergency situation which will require an extraordinary response by the County; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, states that "[s]afeguarding the life and property of [the County's] citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state" and further grants to the County the power to provide for the health and safety of persons and property and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the County pertaining to taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida signed Executive Order Number 24-214, on October 5, 2024, declaring a State of Emergency in the State of Florida for 35 counties, which did not include Clay County, in the potential path of the storm, in anticipation of a threat imposed by the storm to the state; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2024, the Governor of the State of Florida signed Executive Order Number 24-215, amending Executive Order Number 24-214, to increase the number of counties in the state of Florida to 51 counties under a state of emergency, which includes Clay County, in the potential path of the storm, in anticipation of a threat imposed by the storm to the state; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the combination of the forecast of the storm impacting Florida over the next few days and in order to be in a position to provide the most effective assistance to the citizens of Clay County and the State of Florida in the event weather conditions become dangerous and, further, in order to be able to undertake immediate protective action to prepare for the possible arrival of this storm in or near Clay County, it is necessary that the declaration of an emergency be invoked on Monday, October 7, 2024, as of 8:00 a.m.

NOW THEREFORE,

1. Pursuant to the authority granted by Sections 252.31 through 252.62, Florida Statutes, the County's home rule powers and Clay County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, a declaration of local emergency is declared as of 8:00 a.m., on Monday, October 7, 2024, and shall remain in effect through 8:00 a.m., on Monday, October 14, 2024, (seven days) unless extended prior to that time by me for an additional seven days.

2. The Clay County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is activated and the utilization of the emergency powers under Sections 252.31 through 252.62, Florida Statutes, is authorized.

3. Pursuant to the power and authority granted by Clay County Ordinance 2005-31, as amended, in particular section 7.1-6(c), the procedures and formalities otherwise required of Clay County by law, ordinance, resolution or policy pertaining to entry into contracts, acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities, and appropriation and expenditure of public funds, are hereby waived by this executive order during the existence of this declared state of local emergency.

4. This executive order shall be applicable throughout the unincorporated areas of Clay County, Florida, and through the territorial boundaries of any municipality located within Clay County, Florida, but only to the extent that it does not expressly supersede or otherwise conflict with any municipal ordinance or regulation.

DATED this 6th day of October, 2024, in Green Cove Springs, Florida, to be effective at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October 7, 2024.

Clay County Board of County Commissioners

By: 
Howard Wanamaker, County Manager