

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 21-03-31-01

IN THE MATTER OF EXTENDING THE  
DECLARATION OF A LOCAL  
EMERGENCY AS A RESULT OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19.

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States has declared COVID-19 to be a national emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of Oregon has declared COVID-19 a statewide public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lane County Board of Commissioners has declared COVID-19 a Lane County public health emergency on March 17, 2020 with Board Order 20-03-17-06; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Center for Disease Control has issued guidelines related to COVID-19 which state that if individuals are in high-risk categories, they should follow recommended hygiene protocols, stay at home when ill, and follow social distancing practices whenever possible; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 poses a health risk to Lane County residents, visitors and first responders which could extend for several months with historically high case counts; and

**WHEREAS**, Lane County has experience continued closures or restrictions to government and non-government services, which compromises essential services to vulnerable populations, economic impacts to the local businesses, and public agency disruptions throughout Lane County are resulting from the threat of COVID-19 and will continue to exacerbate jurisdictions' ability to provide typical services including critical life and safety services; and

**WHEREAS**, Community partners as well as Community Based Organizations (CBO) contracts are set to be reevaluated prior to expiring on 12/30/20; and

**WHEREAS**, local medical supply resources may be insufficient to respond to the situation as it evolves; with continued spikes and rise in positive COVID19 cases in Lane County and neighboring Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 response and recovery requires the immediate and significant expenditures of resources at the local level for response in order to keep the public informed and safe. Resources related to contact tracing, disease investigation, community information and public safety are expected to be exhausted; and

**WHEREAS**, CARES funding will end of life on 12/30/20, FEMA could potentially reimburse for COVID related expenses post CARES expiration; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Lane County has enacted a local ordinance (County Code Chapter 20.015) pursuant to the authority granted by ORS Chapter 401, that provides for executive responsibility in times of emergency and specifically delegates authority to declare a state of emergency to the County Chair,

Vice-Chair (if Chair is unavailable), Remaining Board Member(s) (if Vice Chair is unavailable) and County Administrator or designee (if Remaining Board Member(s) is unavailable); and

**WHEREAS**, Lane County Code Chapter 20 and ORS 401.309 further authorize certain actions 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

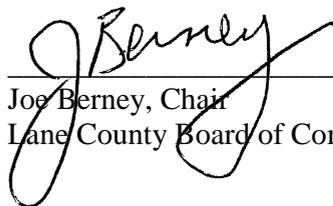
**WHEREAS**, the best information currently available indicates initial COVID vaccines will be available for distribution to front line workers as early as December 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, the continued state of emergency remains of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an extension of the Local Emergency Declaration.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. That a local emergency declared by the Board of Commissioners on March 17, 2020 in Board Order 20-03-17-06, and was extended 60 days on 20-05-12-08, on 20-07-07-14, and on 20-09-01-03 , and 20-12-30-01, 21-02-09-08 and will continue to exist as defined in Lane Code Chapter 20 throughout all of Lane County; and
2. The County Administrator remains authorized under Lane Code Chapter 20 and Board Order 20-03-31-09 to spend up to \$5,000,000 in responding to the effects of the COVID-19; and,
3. The County Administrator is authorized to respond to any requests for authority that require attestation or approval by the Board of Commissioners, to respond to issues regarding this emergency. The County Administrator shall report any actions taken pursuant to this authority at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
4. This extension of the Declaration of Local Emergency shall remain in effect until September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, unless extended or terminated earlier by the Board.

**ADOPTED** this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2021.

  
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Joe Berney, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners