

Columbia County Board of County Commissioners

Resolution No. 2021R- 18

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECLARING A
LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO TROPICAL
STORM/HURRICANE ELSA**

WHEREAS, the National Hurricane Center has recognized the danger to residents and visitors of Florida from **TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE ELSA** by posting a Tropical Storm Warning that incorporates all or parts of Columbia County;

WHEREAS, **TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE ELSA** has the potential for causing extensive damage to public utilities, public buildings, public communication systems, public streets and roads, public drainage systems, and commercial and residential buildings and areas;

WHEREAS, Columbia County has high evacuation times in order to evacuate residents from the hazards of a hurricane or tropical storm event;

WHEREAS, sheltering of residents or evacuees from impacted areas may be necessary; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, provides for emergency management powers of political subdivisions like Columbia County while under a Local State of Emergency to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions by law pertaining to:

1. Performance of public work and taking whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;
2. Entering into contracts;
3. Incurring obligations;
4. Employment of permanent and temporary workers;
5. Utilization of volunteer workers;
6. Rental of equipment;
7. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities; and
8. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida in an emergency session duly assembled this 6th day of July, 2021 that **TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE ELSA** poses a serious threat to the lives and property of residents and visitors to Columbia County and that a Local State of Emergency is hereby immediately declared for all the unincorporated and incorporated territory within the legal boundaries of Columbia County, Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners hereby invokes and shall exercise its authority provided by §252.38(3), Florida Statutes and the Home Rule Charter for Columbia County, Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Local State of Emergency will be in effect for seven (7) days from the date hereof unless the Board votes to end it earlier. If a quorum cannot be achieved for purposes of enacting this Resolution, or if a quorum cannot be obtained to consider any subsequent modifications, alterations, or renewals and imminent emergency conditions exist which threaten this County in the absence of such action, then the Chair, or Vice-Chair if the Chair is unavailable, may sign this resolution or a renewal hereof subject to later ratification by a proper quorum of the Board.

Commissioner Williams offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Hollingsworth and upon roll call, the vote was:

- District 1 – Ronald Williams
- District 2 – Rocky Ford
- District 3 – Robby Hollingsworth
- District 4 – Toby Witt
- Absent District 5 – Tim Murphy

So resolved this 6th day of July, 2021.

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Rocky Ford
Rocky Ford, Chairman

ATTEST: James M. Swisher, Jr.
James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Court

Approved as to form:
Joel Foreman
Joel Foreman, County Attorney

