

Columbia County Board of County Commissioners

Resolution No. 2024 R- 28

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

WHEREAS, the National Hurricane Center has recognized the danger to residents and visitors of Florida from **POTENTIAL TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE DEBBY** (“**POTENTIAL DEBBY**”) by monitoring a system in the Atlantic Ocean that may become Tropical Storm/Hurricane Debby

WHEREAS, POTENTIAL DEBBY 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, Columbia County has been included in Executive Order 24-156 signed by Governor Ron DeSantis on August 1, 2024; 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 2 day of August, 2024 that **POTENTIAL DEBBY** could pose a serious threat to the lives and property of residents and visitors to Columbia County and that a 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.

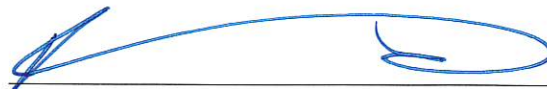
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this State of Emergency will be in effect until any multi-jurisdictional state of emergency that includes Columbia County and relates to **POTENTIAL DEBBY** is lifted or for a period of seven (7) days from the date hereof, whichever period is longer, unless the Board votes 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 Rocky Ford moved for adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Everett Phillips. Upon roll call, the vote was:

- District 1 – Ronald Williams
- District 2 – Rocky Ford
- District 3 – Robby Hollingsworth
- District 4 – Everett Phillips
- District 5 – Tim Murphy

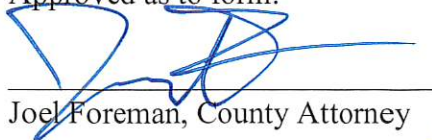
So resolved this 2 day of August, 2024.

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



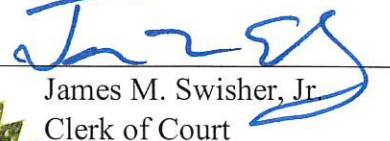
Ron Williams, Chairman

Approved as to form:



Joel Foreman, County Attorney

ATTEST:



James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Court

