

RESOLUTION NO. 42-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO HURRICANE IDA, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the weather system identified by the National Hurricane Center as Hurricane Ida poses a serious threat to the residents and property of the City of Gulf Breeze, Florida, and to the City-owned property of the South Santa Rosa Utility System (SSRUS) and the residents outside the City limits served by the SSRUS; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida is predicted to bring threatening storm surge, tropical storm-force winds and heavy rainfall to the Florida panhandle and the City of Gulf Breeze beginning on Sunday, August 29, 2021, and extending into Monday, August 30, 2021, or later; and

WHEREAS, the coastal areas of Santa Rosa County, including the City of Gulf Breeze, are expected to receive extensive rain, with greater amounts possible in isolated areas, during this time period; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida has the potential for causing substantial damage to public utilities, public buildings, public communication systems, public streets and roads, public drainage systems, commercial and residential buildings and areas; and

WHEREAS, the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic that is surging with the highly contagious Delta variant pose additional risks that may require administrative measures consistent with the City's Pandemic Disease Plan and guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") as necessary and appropriate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the City's first responders and the citizens of the City of Gulf Breeze during the City's emergency response to Hurricane Ida; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Gulf Breeze has conferred with the City Manager and has been informed of risks facing the City and considered whether or not to declare a state of local emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor of the City of Gulf Breeze, under the authority granted by pursuant to Section 2-37 of the City Code of Ordinances, hereby resolves, finds, and declares that effective **August 27, 2021, 3:30 pm**, CDT, until further action by the Mayor or the City Council of the City of Gulf Breeze, as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and are incorporated herein.
2. In light of the serious threat to the residents and property of the City of Gulf Breeze and to the City-owned property of the South Santa Rosa Utility System (SSRUS) and the residents outside the City limits served by SSRUS, a state of local emergency is hereby declared in the City of Gulf Breeze.

3. The Mayor hereby waives the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the City of Gulf Breeze pertaining to:
 - a. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to insure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
 - b. Entering into contracts.
 - c. Incurring obligations.
 - d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
 - e. Utilization of volunteer workers.
 - f. Rental of equipment.
 - g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities.
 - h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.
4. The City Manager, or her designee, is hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to exercise, on behalf of the City, such emergency powers adopted by the City in its Disaster Emergency Response Plan and such emergency powers necessary to carry out the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, including, but not limited to, the powers to direct and compel evacuation of all or part of the population from stricken or threatened areas within the City, if such action is deemed necessary to reduce the vulnerability of people in communities of the City of Gulf Breeze to damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from the imminent threat, as well as any other powers expressly or implicitly conferred pursuant to Chapters 166 and 252, Florida Statutes, and any other provision of law or City ordinance.
5. The City's Disaster Emergency Response Plan is hereby activated.
6. The City Manager is further authorized to take such administrative actions as are consistent with the City's Pandemic Disease Plan and guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") as necessary and appropriate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the City's first responders and the citizens of the City of Gulf Breeze from risks of the COVID-19 pandemic that is surging with the highly contagious Delta variant, which actions may include, but not be limited to, requirements that all occupants of emergency transport and law enforcement vehicles, and all persons in places where social distancing is not possible, wear masks during this state of emergency.
7. This Resolution shall be transmitted to the Administrator of Santa Rosa County and the Secretary of State upon adoption.
8. This authority shall extend only for the period of the state of local emergency as determined by the Mayor, or until further action by the City Council terminates such authority or declares that the state of local emergency has ended.
9. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED THIS 27TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2021.

CITY OF GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA



CHERRY M. FITCH, MAYOR

ATTEST:



STEPHANIE D. LUCAS
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

