

RESOLUTION 2020-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA
DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19 AND ESTABLISHING
EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS.**

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has issued Executive Order Number 20-51, declaring a public health emergency in the State of Florida and designating the Florida Department of Health as the lead State Agency to coordinate emergency response activities among the various state agencies and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the threat from COVID-19 impacts the public health, safety and welfare of residents of the City of Okeechobee and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, mitigating the effects of COVID-19 is a high priority in the City of Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statutes 870.042, City of Okeechobee Ordinance No. 1194 designates the Chief of Police as the Emergency Management Official for the City of Okeechobee responsible for declaring that a state of emergency exists.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Okeechobee, Florida:

Section 1: The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated in this Resolution.

Section 2: The City Council and the Police Chief of the City of Okeechobee hereby declare that a state of emergency exists in the City of Okeechobee effective as of 8:12 P.M. on this 17th day of March 2020. This declaration shall remain in effect for 7 days, unless the Mayor terminates it earlier.


Section 3: Consistent with the direction of the Governor of the State of Florida and the State of Florida Department of Health, the Mayor may extend this state of emergency for 3 additional 7-day periods after which it will automatically expire unless the City Council further extends it.

Section 4: During the time that this state of emergency is in effect, the Police Chief may undertake any one or more of the emergency actions provided for in Florida Statutes 870.044 and 870.045, including but not limited to establishing curfews. Any violation of a provision of Florida Statutes 870.041 to 870.047, or of any emergency measure established, shall be a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in Florida Statutes 775.082 or 775.083, and enforced as deemed necessary by the Chief of Police, or his officers or designees.

Section 5: This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

APPROVED and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Okeechobee, Florida, on the 17th day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:



Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk



Dowling R. Watford, Jr., Mayor

REVIEWED FOR LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



John J. Fumero, City Attorney