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## DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**Originally Effective: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Amended: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.**

**New information is shown in red**

**WHEREAS**, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans that can spread from person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to the over 118,000 cases of the coronavirus illness in 110 countries and territories around the world and the sustained risk of further global spread on March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned of the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 globally and in the United States and has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict travel to areas designated by the CDC; and

**WHEREAS**, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina as of March 10, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the State of North Carolina, through the Office of the Governor, Roy Cooper, issued Executive Order No. 116 titled, "Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 117 that prohibits public gatherings of more than 100 people; closes public schools until March 30, 2020; and encourages social distancing whenever possible; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 118, which limits restaurants and bars to selling food and beverage by carry-out, drive-through and delivery only, effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 17, 2020 and through March 21, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 21, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 119, which delegates authority to the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") to waive the effect or enforcement of certain regulations for child care and extended time periods and accreditation scheduling for public health nurses; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 120, which extends the in-person closure of the public K-12 schools in North Carolina until May 15; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 121, which orders North Carolinians to remain in their homes except for performing essential work and essential activities such as taking care of others, obtaining necessary supplies, and for health and safety purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 30, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 122, which help schools and local governments access state surplus property to help bridge gaps during the response to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 123, which amends Executive Order No. 40 by extending the North Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council, and No. 124, which prohibits utilities - including electric, gas, water and wastewater services - from disconnecting people who are unable to pay during this pandemic and prohibits them from collecting fees, penalties or interest for late payment; and

**WHEREAS**, in consultation with health care professionals and based upon guidance from the CDC and NCDHHS, arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Martin County remain safe and secure;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Chapter 8 Article II of the Martin County Code of Ordinances, I, Tommy Bowen, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists within the County of Martin, NC:

**Section 1.** A State of Emergency is hereby declared within Martin County.

**Section 2.** The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be:

- All unincorporated areas within the jurisdiction of Martin County; and
- (With the consent of the mayors) The jurisdictions of the Town of Robersonville, the Town of Parmele, the Town of Oak City, the Town of Jamesville, the Town of Hassell, the Town of Hamilton, the Town of Everetts and the Town of Bear Grass.

**Section 3.** The Emergency Management Plan, adopted by Martin County, and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements are in effect and shall remain in effect until this declaration expires or is rescinded.

**Section 4.** I hereby order all Martin County personnel to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the County's Emergency Management Plan and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements, and to furnish assistance thereunder.

**Section 5.** I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be made available to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Martin County Board of Commissioners, and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

**Section 6.** For the purpose of holding Board of Commissioner meetings electronically during this emergency, I hereby suspend the limitations on remote meeting participation / establishment of a quorum as stated in Section 3a of the Martin County Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure (Adopted on May 11, 2011 and amended on October 12, 2016).

**Section 7.** In compliance with Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 124, I hereby suspend the utility cut-offs due to non-payment in Martin County Water Districts No. 1 and No. 2 and accrual of late fees and penalties for the duration of this State of Emergency.

**Section 6 8.** This declaration shall take effect on March 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded. This declaration is hereby amended as indicated herein on April 1, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

**DECLARED**



*Tommy Bowen*

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Tommy Bowen, Chairman  
Martin County Board of Commissioners

**ATTEST:**

*Jessica Godard*

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Jessica Godard, Martin County Clerk