



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 3/17/2020

New Business

Department: COUNTY MANAGEMENT

Presenter(s): MICHAEL FRUE and JENNIFER BARNETTE

Contact(s): MICHAEL FRUE, JENNIFER BARNETTE, JENNI MULLENDORE

Subject: CONSIDERATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION/COVID-19

Brief Summary: 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 and which can spread from person to person. In response to the global spread of the virus and the disease it causes, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; the Centers 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; the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19; and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina as of March 10, 2020. Accordingly, 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."

In consultation and with the approval of the Board of Commissioners, County Management proposes a the declaration of local state of emergency to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Buncombe County remain safe and secure.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve the Declaration of a Local State of Emergency.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: Manager recommends approval as presented.