

# **NORTH WHATCOM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #21**

## **Resolution 2020-05**

### **RESOLUTION DECLARING LOCAL EMERGENCY AND DELELIGATION OF AUTHORITY BY WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #21:**

**WHEREAS**, novel Coronavirus COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and has proven it can easily spread from person to person; and,

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified a potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and within the United States, including within Washington State; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are documented cases of COVID-19, including deaths caused thereby, within Washington State; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Department of Health has confirmed the person-to-person spread of COVID-19 and is finding an increasing risk of exposure and infection to the general public due to its potential to spread quickly; and,

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 on January 31, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a public health emergency for COVID-19 on February 29, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu declared a public health emergency regarding COVID-19 on March 10, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States declared public national emergency relating to COVID-19 on March 13, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Whatcom County Fire District No. 21 (the "District") called a Special Meeting of the Commission for March 26, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. as required by RCW 42.30, and specifically RCW 42.30.080; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an emergency present which necessitates this Resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Board of Commissioners of the Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 21 (the "District") hereby and expressly finds and declares, based upon the Recitals above, which are expressly adopted herein, that COVID-19 is a civil public health emergency that:

A. DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PRESERVE PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECT LIFE, PROTECT PUBLIC PROPERTY, OR TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO ANY STRICKEN NEIGHBORHOOD OVERTAKEN BY SUCH OCCURRENCES; AND

B. Could, if unattended, seriously affect the safety, health, or welfare of a substantial number of citizens of the Fire District, or preclude the provision of essential public services with such magnitude or severity as to necessitate seeking state, county, or other supplementation of local efforts or resources exerted or utilized in alleviating the danger, damage, suffering or hardship faced.

This Resolution Declaring a Local Emergency and Delegating Authority (“Resolution”) authorizes the Fire Chief to exercise such emergency powers as may be lawful under applicable laws, regulations, ordinances, or the District’s policies, and necessary, including by way of example and not limitation: general fire district powers under Title 52, RCW 39.04.280(3) for emergency procurement, and Chapter 39.28 RCW (Emergency Public Works). Effective upon signature hereto and as further detailed in Section 3 below, the Fire Chief is authorized to exercise such lawful authority through the use and direction of District personnel, services, equipment and such additional acts as the Fire Chief may find necessary in his or her sole discretion to properly and safely manage this emergency.

**FURTHERMORE**, In order to properly delegate and authorize the Fire Chief to prepare for, address, manage, prevent, respond to, and remediate this emergency situation, the Fire Chief shall have all necessary powers to do the following, which is provided for example and not limitation: Make necessary rules and regulations reasonably related to the emergency, to obtain supplies, equipment, personal property, professional, procured or technical services, etc. (including selecting and awarding such contracts as necessary), such public works as defined by RCW 39.04.010, to authorize overtime and/or extended leave for personnel, to requisition personnel and material, obtain emergency funding and permitting through federal, state and local agencies, and take such other lawful acts as may be necessary and reasonably related to the emergency situation declared hereunder.

A. If the Fire Chief exercises any powers or authorities delegated under this Resolution, the Fire Chief shall report such exercise to the Commission at the next regular Commission meeting with explanation as to why it was necessary to take such action under this Resolution to meet the emergency situation articulated herein. If required by law, the Commission shall take such action in an open session to ratify the Fire Chief’s action(s) hereunder.

**FUTHERMORE**, this Resolution shall continue in full force and effect until terminated by law or by further Resolution and shall be reviewed as a regular agenda item on the Commission’s agenda until such time as this Resolution is terminated.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF MARCH 2020 BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #21.**

**ATTEST:**

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Bruce Ansell, Chairman

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Rich Bosman, Vice-Chairman

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Larry McPhail, Commissioner

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John Crawford, Commissioner

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Scott Fischer, Commissioner

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Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

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Jason Van der Veen, Acting Fire Chief