

Joint Yellowstone County and City of Billings Emergency Declaration

Resolution No. 20-31

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus a pandemic;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, as of March 10, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there are over 125,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide with over 900 confirmed cases in the United States;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the residents of Montana;

WHEREAS, although there are presently confirmed cases in Montana, and the Montana DPHHS, local health departments, health and medical departments and local jurisdictions have activated response plans and protocols to combat the virus in Montana;

WHEREAS, local officials are working to identify, contact, and test individuals in the State of Montana who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of the City of Billings and Yellowstone County and its people;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Bullock declared a state of emergency for Montana as defined in §§10-3-103 and 10-3-302, MCA.

WHEREAS, Section 10-3-103(4) MCA defines “disaster” as the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or artificial cause;

WHEREAS, Section 10-3-103(8) MCA defines “emergency” as the imminent threat of a disaster causing immediate peril to life or property that timely action may avert or minimize; and,

WHEREAS, Yellowstone County and the City of Billings are addressing the threat that COVID-19 poses to the health and welfare of its residents and visitors;

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Bullock ordered closed all K-12 schools for a period of two (2) weeks;

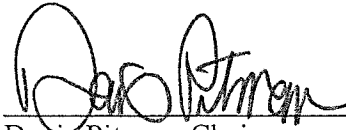
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Title 10, Chapter 3, Part 4, MCA, the Yellowstone County Commission and the Billings City Council declare that an emergency for Yellowstone County and the City of Billings is posed.

IN ADDITION, by this declaration we direct the implementation of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and authorize all necessary County and/or City agencies, including but not limited to the Yellowstone County Emergency Operations Center, to take appropriate action to assist the County and City and individuals in containing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from this disaster emergency, to protect County and local property, and to provide such other assistance as is necessary to protect the public health, welfare, and safety. Included is necessary testing, equipment such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials and supplies deemed necessary to assist with finding, preventing and combatting the virus.

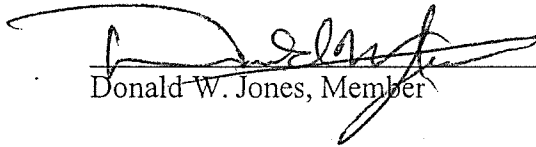
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution will be filed with the Yellowstone County Clerk and Recorder.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of March 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA


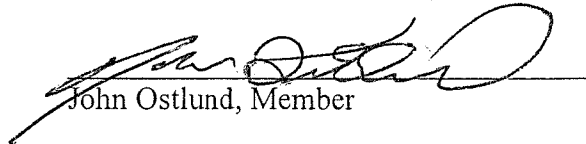


Denis Pitman, Chairman



Donald W. Jones, Member

ATTEST:


Jeff Martin, Clerk and Recorder
John Ostlund, Member

STATE OF MONTANA)
 :
County of Yellowstone)

On the 16th day of March, 2020, before me, a Notary Public in and for the State of Montana, personally appeared Denis Pitman, Chairman, Donald W. Jones, John Ostlund and Jeff Martin know to me to be the Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk and Recorder of Yellowstone County, Montana, and who signed the foregoing instrument and who acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

WITNESS my hand and seal the day and year hereinabove written.

