

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF STARKE COUNTY

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY
DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
RESOLUTION 2020- 012**

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, the Governor of Indiana issued Executive Order 20-02 declaring a public health emergency throughout the State due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and directing officials to cooperate with the Indiana State Department of Health in response to this health emergency; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ind. Code § 10-14-3-29, the President of the Board of Commissioners of Starke County, acting in concert with the full Board of Commissioners, possesses authority to declare a local disaster emergency; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC § 10-14-3-1(b)(22)-(23) an epidemic or other public health emergency is within the definition of disaster; and,

WHEREAS, the Indiana Department of Health web site indicates that at least five cases of COVID-19 have been diagnosed in Starke County, Indiana, and reliable sources including the Office of the Governor of Indiana, the Centers for Disease Control and the Indiana Department of Health assert that the novel Coronavirus is a highly contagious pathogenic virus and a severe threat to the health and wellbeing of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- I. The Board of Commissioners hereby determines that there exists throughout Starke County a local disaster emergency, specially the spread of COVID-19 disease as part of the worldwide pandemic.
- II. Starke County Government and its officers, agencies, boards, and staff are hereby directed to cooperate with the Indiana State Department of Health, the State of Indiana, and other local governments and organizations, particularly in Starke County, in their efforts to address and ameliorate the effects of this health emergency.
- III. Starke County Government and its officers, agencies, boards and staff are hereby authorized and urged to act rapidly to seek all financially reimbursement, funding assistance, supplies and other assistance as may be available through the State and

Federal Government or through non-governmental entities due to the COVID-19 health emergency.

- IV. The response and recovery aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans are hereby activated, and the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans are hereby authorized.
- V. All county officers, agencies, boards and staff are directed to comply with all COVID-19 related orders and directives from the Office of the Governor.
- VI. This Resolution implements all authority set forth in IC § 10-14-3-29 and throughout IC Chapter 10-14-3, but subject also the limitations set forth therein.
- VII. The Auditor is directed to give this declaration prompt and general publicity and to file the resolution promptly in the official records of Starke County.
- VIII. This Resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board of Commissioners, or until the Office of Governor cancels or terminates the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration.

All of which is DECLARED by the President of the Board of Commissioners and simultaneously ADOPTED by the full Board of Commissioners of Commissioners of Starke County this 7 day of April 2020 by the following vote:

COMMISSIONERS OF STARKE COUNTY

VOTE

yes

Charles Chesak, President

yes

Kathryn Norent, Vice President

YES

Bryan Cavender, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rachel Oesterreich, Auditor
Of Starke County Indiana