IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO HOMELESSNESS AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AND DISTRIBUTE FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Governor of Oregon has declared an Emergency by Executive Order 23-02; and

WHEREAS, the number of households experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Lane County more than doubled from 2017 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, ORS 401.305 provides authority for Lane County to act as an emergency management agency and includes authority to establish policies and protocols for defining and directing responsibilities during time of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 10th, 2023 per Order 23-03-07-04, the Board approved the acceptance of up to $30 Million from OHCS in response to the Governors Emergency Declaration due to homelessness and delegated the authority to the County Administrator to execute and sign all required documents to accept the funding from the State; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has enacted a local ordinance (County Code Chapter 20.015) pursuant to the authority granted by ORS Chapter 401, that provides for executive responsibility in times of emergency and specifically delegates authority to declare a state of emergency to the County Chair, Vice-Chair (if Chair is unavailable), Remaining Board Member(s) (if Vice Chair is unavailable) and County Administrator or designee (if Remaining Board Member(s) is unavailable); and

WHEREAS, Lane County Code Chapter 20 and ORS 401.309 further authorize certain actions be taken during a state of emergency when necessary for public safety or for the efficient conduct of activities to minimize or mitigate the effects of the emergency; and

WHEREAS, ORS 279B.060 authorizes the head of a contracting agency to make or authorize others to make emergency procurements of goods or services during an emergency without strict compliance with procurement regulations or procedures; and

WHEREAS, the local Emergency remains in effect in alignment with the State of Emergency, January 10th, 2024 the Local Emergency Declaration;

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NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County ORDERS as follows:

1. A local state of emergency is declared due to homelessness, as described in the Oregon Governor’s Executive Order EO 23-02 (the “Homelessness Emergency”).

2. Authority is delegated to the County Administrator as authorized under Lane Code Chapter 20, to allocate up to $20,000,000 in responding to the Homelessness Emergency, and to execute all documents necessary to achieve the action items outlined in the approved Lane County MAC Group to Implement and Refine the Community Plan.

3. The County Administrator is delegated authority to take such actions as are necessary for the prompt and efficient expenditure of the $20,000,000 authorized herein for purposes related to the Homelessness Emergency in compliance with the Oregon Public Contracting Code, including source selection and execution of contracts. This authority includes awarding and execution of contracts of any amount.

4. Utilization of all available resources of the County as may be reasonably necessary to support execution of the “All IN” Action Plan Objectives.

5. This Declaration of local state of emergency shall remain in effect until January 10th, 2024, unless extended or terminated earlier by action of the Board of County Commissioners.

ADOPTED this 6th day of May, 2023

Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

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