

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ORDER
EXTENDING (EXTENSION EIGHTEEN) THE STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
DECLARED ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, IN RESPONSE TO A COUNTYWIDE THREAT
FROM POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE NINE (TROPICAL STORM
HELENE/HURRICANE HELENE)**

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2024, the County Administrator issued an Order declaring a state of local emergency for all of Hillsborough County due to the countywide threat from Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida on September 23, 2024, issued Executive Order 24-208, declaring that a State of Emergency exists throughout several counties in the State of Florida, including Hillsborough County, as a result of the potential hazards and dangerous threats that Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine poses to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida on September 24, 2024, issued Executive Order 24-209, amending Section 1 of Executive Order 24-208, declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the entire State of Florida, as a result of the potential hazards and dangerous threats that Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine poses to the State; and

WHEREAS, Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine strengthened into Tropical Storm Helene on September 24, 2024, and further strengthened into Hurricane Helene on September 25, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator issued an Order of Evacuation on September 25, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene's life-threatening storm surge and damaging wind gusts made landfall on the Florida Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2024, the County Administrator issued an Order extending the state of local emergency declared on September 23, 2024, in response to a countywide threat from Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine (Tropical Storm Helene/Hurricane Helene); and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida on October 3, 2024, issued Executive Order 24-213, amending Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Executive Order 24-208, as amended by Executive Order 24-209, to address the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) strike at all seaports along the East and Gulf Coasts of the United States, and the resulting disruptions which could have had the potential to hinder continuing efforts to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Helene, a Category 4 hurricane; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida on October 3, 2024, issued Executive Order 24-212, suspending the strict requirements of some provisions the Florida Election Code in counties affected by Hurricane Helene, including Hillsborough County; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida on October 16, 2024, issued Executive Order 24-234, amending Sections 1 through 8 of Executive Order 24-212, due to the compounded damage and disruption from Hurricane Milton on the counties affected by Hurricane Helene, resulting in extensive

infrastructure damage, power outages, and displacement of a significant number of voters; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida on November 21, 2024, issued Executive Order 24-249 renewing the state of emergency and provisions of Executive Order 24-208 for an additional sixty (60) days because recovery efforts and those affected by this disaster require the continued support of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida on January 17, 2025, issued Executive Order 25-10 renewing the state of emergency and provisions of Executive Order 24-208 for an additional sixty (60) days because recovery efforts and those affected by this disaster require the continued support of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and Hillsborough County are continuing to experience serious threats to public health, safety and welfare as a result of the potential hazards and dangerous threats resulting from Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Helene, in its wake, has caused serious and imminent threats to Hillsborough County, based upon additional rainfall received, gale force or greater winds, area flooding, ground saturation, uprooted trees, debris, power outages, downed power lines, and many other issues which continue to pose a serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare and cause serious property damage within Hillsborough County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the continued threat of rising water levels of area rivers and water bodies creates the possibility that certain areas of Hillsborough County may require specialized assistance to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens living in the affected areas; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough County must continue to take timely emergency measures due to (1) the heightened potential for injury or damage to life and property within the county, (2) the continuing disaster response/recovery operations needed in Hillsborough County and the surrounding area, and (3) the potential need to evacuate residents and visitors from the hazards of rising water levels; and

WHEREAS, certain additional specialized equipment and personnel may be required to assist in evacuation and to take protective action regarding life and property in Hillsborough County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, other continuing measures may have to be taken to mitigate the potential for threatening conditions as well as extensive damage to public utilities, public buildings, public communications systems, public streets and roads, public drainage systems, commercial and residential buildings and areas; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and the Hillsborough County Emergency Management Ordinance (codified as Chapter 22, Article II, Sections 22-19 through 22-29, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws), authorizes a political subdivision such as Hillsborough County to declare a state of local emergency; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-21, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, empowers the Board Chair, or County Administrator, as designee, to declare that a local state of emergency exists; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, October 7, October 14, October 21, October 28, November 4, November 11, November 18, November 25, December 2, December 9, December 16, December 23, and December 30, 2024, and on January 6, January 13, and January 20, 2025, the County Administrator issued Orders extending the state of local emergency declared on September 23, 2024, in response to a countywide threat from Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine (Tropical Storm Helen/Hurricane Helene); and

WHEREAS, a state of emergency declared under the authority of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and the Hillsborough County Emergency Management Ordinance, shall have a duration of no more than seven days, renewable for further periods of no more than seven days; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue disaster operations, including response and recovery, it is necessary to have a local emergency declaration in place.

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA, THIS 27th DAY OF JANUARY 2025, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY DESIGNATED IN SECTION 252.38, F.S., AND SECTION 22-22 OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CODE ISSUES THIS ORDER RESOLVING THAT:

1. Hurricane Helene, in its wake, has caused serious and imminent threats to the Hillsborough County area, based upon additional rainfall received, gale force or greater winds, storm surge, area flooding, uprooted trees, debris, power outages, downed power lines and many other issues which continue to pose a serious threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of the people and property within Hillsborough County, Florida, and the surrounding area, and that the state of local emergency is declared, effective immediately for the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Hillsborough County.
2. The provisions of Chapter 22, Article II, Sections 22-19 through 22-29, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, and the emergency provisions of the Hillsborough Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan shall be implemented.
3. The evacuation of areas or zones so determined as an evacuation area or zone by the County Administrator upon the advice of the Director of Emergency Management, may be ordered.
4. The County Administrator is hereby given the authority to:
 - a. Determine whether any specific areas or zones of the County are to be evacuated; and
 - b. Order* the evacuation of all persons from all areas of Hillsborough County designated as evacuation zones; and
 - c. Direct the sequence in which such evacuations shall be carried out, including the time any evacuations are to begin, as well as the time such evacuations are to be completed; and
 - d. Regulate the movement of persons and traffic to, from, or within any location in Hillsborough County to the extent needed to cope with this emergency.

**Any evacuation order issued by the County Administrator shall be in writing, immediately disseminated by all practical means to inform the public in the affected*

areas and filed with the BOCC Clerk. An Order of Evacuation shall become effective upon execution by the County Administrator. The County Administrator shall have the authority to amend, rescind, or terminate any evacuation order.

5. The County Administrator is hereby empowered and authorized to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the County by law or ordinance pertaining to any action designated in Section 252.38, F.S., and Section 22-22(d) of Hillsborough County Code.
6. The County Administrator is further empowered to carry out all emergency responsibilities delegated by the Governor to the political subdivisions of the State.
7. All state and/or local business licensees, vendors, merchants, and any other person operating a retail business in Hillsborough County, is hereby prohibited from charging more than the normal average retail prices, as defined in Section 22-22(c)(7), of Hillsborough County Code, for any goods, materials, or services sold during the duration of any extension of this declaration of emergency.
8. Nothing in this Executive Order provides the County Administrator the authority to regulate the use or possession of firearms contrary to the provisions of Chapter 790, Florida Statutes.
9. The State of Florida Executive Order 24-208 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.
10. The State of Florida Executive Order 24-209 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.
11. The State of Florida Executive Order 24-212 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.
12. The State of Florida Executive Order 24-213 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.
13. The State of Florida Executive Order 24-234 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.
14. The State of Florida Executive Order 24-249 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.
15. The State of Florida Executive Order 25-10 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.
16. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect for seven days unless extended or rescinded by the County Administrator.

Bonnie M. Wise

**Bonnie M. Wise, County Administrator
Hillsborough County**

APPROVED BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency

BY: *Ernesto Mayor Jr.*

Senior Assistant County Attorney

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH)

I, VICTOR D. CRIST, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex Officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing County Administrator Order Extending (Extension Eighteen) the State of Local Emergency Declared on September 23, 2024, in Response to a Countywide Threat from Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine (Tropical Storm Helene/ Hurricane Helene) is a true and correct copy of the Order executed by the County Administrator of Hillsborough County, Florida, on January 27, 2025.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 27th day of January, 2025.

**VICTOR D. CRIST
Clerk of Circuit Court**

By: *[Signature]*
Deputy Clerk

