

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ORDER  
EXTENDING (EXTENSION SIXTEEN) THE STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY  
DECLARED ON OCTOBER 6, 2024, IN RESPONSE TO A COUNTYWIDE THREAT  
FROM TROPICAL STORM MILTON(HURRICANE MILTON)**

**WHEREAS**, on October 6, 2024, the County Administrator issued an Order declaring a state of local emergency for all of Hillsborough County due to the countywide threat from Tropical Storm Milton; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Florida on October 5, 2024, issued Executive Order 24-214, declaring that a state of emergency exists in portions of Florida’s Gulf Coast, including Hillsborough County, as a result of the threat from Tropical Storm Milton; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Florida on October 6, 2024, issued Executive Order 24-215, amending Section 1 of Executive Order 24-214, declaring a state of emergency exists in additional counties in Florida as a result of the threat from Tropical Storm Milton; and

**WHEREAS**, Tropical Storm Milton strengthened into Hurricane Milton on October 7, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Administrator issued an Order of Evacuation on October 7, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 9, 2024, Hurricane Milton’s life-threatening storm surge and damaging wind gusts made landfall on the Florida Gulf Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Florida on December 3, 2024, issued Executive Order 24-264 renewing the state of emergency and provisions of Executive Order 24-214 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 Milton; and

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Milton, 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 October 13, October 20, October 27, November 3, November 10, November 17, November 24, December 1, December 8, December 15, December 22, and December 29, 2024, and on January 5, January 12, and January 19, 2025, the County Administrator issued Orders extending the state of local emergency declared on October 6, 2024, in response to a countywide threat from Tropical Storm Milton/Hurricane Milton); 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 26th 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 Milton, 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 24-214 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.
10. The State of Florida Executive Order 24-215 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.
11. The State of Florida Executive Order 24-264 is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Executive Order.

12. 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 the State of Local Emergency Declared on October 6, 2024, in Response to a Countywide Threat from Tropical Storm Milton/Hurricane Milton is a true and correct copy of the Order executed by the County Administrator of Hillsborough County, Florida, on January 26, 2025.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 26th day of January, 2025.

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

By: *[Signature]*  
**Deputy Clerk**

