



## **DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY OF THE MAYOR**

### **CITY OF PAHOKEE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY FROM AUGUST 17, 2021 AT 12:00 PM THROUGH AUGUST 24, 2021 AT 12:00 PM 2021**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 7-1 of the City of Pahokee's Code of Ordinances entitled "Officers Authorized to Declare State of Emergency" the Mayor is designated as the official empowered to declare a state of emergency consistent with relevant provisions of Chapter 870, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes also confers emergency management powers to political subdivisions to safeguard the life and property of its citizens as an "innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, due to recent events within the City initially caused by unlawful assemblies, as described in Section 870.02, Florida Statutes, the Pahokee community is in an uproar and following various communications with Palm Beach County law enforcement; making observation about the tension existing within the community; having experienced extreme disorder during recent city commission meetings and having viewed incendiary social media posts, it is clear that an environment exists where an imminent threat to the public peace or order and to the general welfare of the City is at stake; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Pahokee is a small community in a rural western area of Palm Beach County and widespread fear and outrage exists at a level that is likely to result in substantial injury to persons or to property; and

**WHEREAS**, the atmosphere is one where there is an immediate threat to public peace and order and it is necessary that the Mayor declare that a state of emergency exists within the City of Pahokee; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 252-38, Florida Statutes the duration of each State of Emergency declared locally is limited to a period of seven (7) days; however, Section 252.38 also provides that such local State of Emergency may be extended, as necessary, in 7-day increments; and

**WHEREAS**, the authorized City Mayor is seeking assistance from Palm Beach County and applicable state agencies to assist the City of Pahokee in maintaining and restoring peace; and

**WHEREAS**, during the state of emergency only essential City functions may continue as determined by the City Manager in his discretion; and

**WHEREAS**, no city commission meetings, no special city commission meeting, no town hall meeting and/or advisory board meetings shall be held during the declared state of emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, KEITH W. BABB, Jr., as City of Pahokee Mayor, pursuant to the authority vested in me under Section 7-1 of the City of Pahokee's Code of Ordinances believes that there exists a clear and present danger of a riot or other general public disorder or widespread disobedience of the law, and substantial injury to persons or to property, all of which constitutes an imminent threat to public peace or order, and to the general welfare of the City of Pahokee. I further find that it is necessary to continue to take immediate action to control and reduce threats associated with any actions taken that would violate Florida and City laws. The City will work together with law enforcement and Palm Beach County to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the people of the City of Pahokee.

**BASED ON THE FOREGOING, I HEREBY** declare this Declaration of a State of Emergency in the City of Pahokee for a seven (7) day period, commencing from 12:00 PM on August 17, 2021 through 12:00 PM to August 24, 2021.

  
Office of the City Clerk

CITY OF PAHOKEE

  
CITY OF PAHOKEE

KEITH W. BABB, JR.