

**JOINT DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY BY THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, THE CITY OF
CUTHBERT AND THE CITY OF SHELLMAN.**

WHEREAS, the outbreak of the COVID-19 Corona Virus in the United States has placed the State of Georgia and the citizens of Randolph County, Georgia in ongoing and imminent danger; and

WHEREAS, there have been deaths from COVID-19 in counties neighboring Randolph County, including Terrell and Early Counties; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) has classified COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), have issued guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19, warning that large gatherings of individuals in close proximity to one-another pose a risk of the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Georgia, Brian P. Kemp has declared a statewide emergency; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §38-3-28(a) provides the political subdivisions of the state with authority to make, amend and rescind such orders, rules and regulations as may be necessary for emergency management purposes to supplement rules and regulations promulgated by the Governor during a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Charters of the City of Cuthbert, City of Shellman and Randolph County provide the Mayor and Chairman with authority to declare a local state of emergency and implement rules and regulations for the purpose of minimizing injury to the people of the Randolph County and protecting the welfare of the community;

WHEREAS, public health officials advise that large gatherings of individuals pose a risk of the spread of COVID 19 and the CDC recommends that persons maintain a distance of six feet from others when possible;

WHEREAS, the elected leaders of Randolph County have determined that limiting large gatherings of people is necessary and critical to preventing and/or

slowing the spread of COVID-19 throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Chairman of the County Commission, the Mayor of Cuthbert, and the Mayor of Shellman, there exist emergency circumstances within Randolph County requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Randolph County; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to take extraordinary and emergency actions to prevent the spread of this serious illness to people

NOW, THEREFORE , IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that a local state of emergency exists in Randolph County, the City of Cuthbert and the City of Shellman and shall continue until the conditions requiring this declaration are abated.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

That a local state of public health emergency is hereby declared in Randolph County, including the Cities of Cuthbert and Shellman.

(1) That the state of emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration, subject to renewal and by the Chairman. ;

(2) That public or private gatherings bringing or likely to bring together ten (10) or more people at the same time in a single room or single confined indoor or outdoor space; including stadiums, auditoriums, tents, outdoor arenas, back yards, meeting halls, conference rooms, private homes, or other confined area; are prohibited anywhere in Randolph County.

(3) Restaurants may only provide take out, delivery or drive-through services.

(4) Locations for consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises, including bars, taverns, and private clubs shall close and remain closed.

(5) Indoor recreation areas including gyms, health clubs, indoor amusement facilities, bowling alleys, pool halls, theaters or any similar facility must close and remain closed.

(6) Grocery stores, shopping centers and other retail establishments may remain open but must limit access to no more than fifty (50) customers at a time for grocery stores and thirty (30) customers at a time for other retail establishments.

(7) Church services shall be determined by the pastor, reverend or leadership of each individual church, but the officials recommend that such services likely to be attended by ten (10) or more individuals be cancelled or rescheduled.

(8) Citizens of Randolph County, the City of Cuthbert and the City of Shellman shall have approximately thirty (30) extra days to pay water and utility bills without disruption of services, but balances must be made current by April 21, 2020 unless otherwise extended.

(9) Violation of this order shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable with a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 and /or imprisonment not exceeding 180 days, or both.

(10) These provisions shall be enforced by the Randolph County Sheriff's Department and the Cuthbert Police Department.

This order is made pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-2-28 and is filed in the Office of the County Clerk, the Clerk of the City of Cuthbert and the Clerk of the City of Shellman. This order was made with due consideration to the orders, rules, regulations, actions, recommendations and requests of federal authorities relevant thereto and to the extent permitted by law shall be consistent with such orders, rules, regulations, actions, recommendations and requests.

SO ORDERED, this 20th day of March, 2020.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
RANDOLPH COUNTY, GEORGIA**

By: Wesley K. Williams
Wesley Williams, Chairman

(SEAL)

Attest: Carlisa Cooper
Carlisa Cooper, Clerk

CITY OF CUTHBERT, GEORGIA

By: Steve S. Whatley
Steve Whatley, Mayor

(SEAL)

Attest: Diane Goza
Diane Goza, Clerk

CITY OF SHELLMAN, GEORGIA

By: Paul Langford
Paul Langford, Mayor

(SEAL)

Attest: Michelle Graham
Michelle Graham, Clerk