

EMERGENCY ORDER 2024-01
DECLARATION OF STATE OF GENERAL EMERGENCY
INVEST 97-L

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County has been informed by its emergency management staff that the National Weather Service has stated that due to the unpredictability of Invest 97-L, it has the potential to threaten or through its effects impact Alachua County; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has issued Executive Order number 25-156 authorizing certain political subdivisions in the State of Florida, including Alachua County, to waive certain procedures and formalities required of political subdivisions; and,

WHEREAS, Executive Order number 25-156 also finds that a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the extent to which weather effects from Invest 97-L are expected to reach Alachua County are currently unknown and depends on the future development of the current weather conditions. The storm is likely to develop further into a tropical depression over the weekend. It is predicted that associated weather could result in severe rain and flooding. This storm has the potential to cause widespread damage across Alachua County to government and personal property, impact the roadways, disrupt utilities and County operations, cause flooding, therefore this event has the capacity to pose a significant, imminent, and dangerous threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of Alachua County, Florida, including visitors and tourists, as well as their real and personal property; and

WHEREAS, Invest 97-L meets the definition of weather event in Sec. 252.38 (4) and its impact on the authority of political subdivisions on enacting emergency orders in response to a weather event; and

WHEREAS, Alachua County has received over 4-7 inches of rainfall in excess of the average for this time of the year and this storm presents the risk of a substantial amount of rain within a short period of

time. With the ground already being saturated from recent rains the risk of surface flooding is increased and all those impacted need to prepare for the potential of flooding; and

WHEREAS, according to Alachua County Code §27.07(4), the Chair of the Board is designated as the Official Authority in the absence of a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. The timing of the potential impact of the effects of Invest 97-L an emergency meeting of the Board is not practicable; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Alachua County Code Section §27.07, the Chair as the Official Authority hereby resolves, finds, and declares:

1. The above recitals are true.
2. A state of general emergency hereby exists in Alachua County, Florida, effective for seven (7) days beginning at 6:30 p.m., eastern daylight time, on this second day of August, 2024.
3. The procedures and formalities otherwise required of Alachua County pertaining to the following are waived:
 - a. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to insure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
 - b. Entering into contracts.
 - c. Incurring obligations.
 - d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
 - e. Utilization of volunteer workers.
 - f. Rental of equipment.
 - g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities.
 - h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

4. The County Manager, or her designee is hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to exercise, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, such emergency powers necessary to carry out the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, including, but not limited to, the powers to declaring curfews or limiting assembly in any part of the County as necessary upon proper findings in order to reduce the vulnerability of people in communities of Alachua County to damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from the imminent threat, as well as any other powers expressly or implicitly conferred pursuant to Chapters 125 and 252, Florida Statutes, including all emergency declarations of the Governor and any other provision of law or county ordinance.
5. Authority granted by this Order shall extend for the period of the state of general emergency, until it expires or is revoked.

This Order shall be transmitted to the Alachua County Clerk of Court upon entry.

Issued this second day of August 2024, at 6:20 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 

Mary C. Alford, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM


Office of County Attorney