

## **Resolution 19-03**

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION REGARDING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

(Revision January 2019)

#### **SECTION I - DEFINITIONS**

“Emergency” is defined as any natural or man-made event requiring the activation of the Local Emergency Operations Plan.

“Disaster” is defined as any natural, technological, civil emergency or threat thereof which causes or has the potential to cause damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to result in a declaration of a state of emergency declared by a county, the Governor or the President of the United States.

“State Emergency Management Director” is the person appointed by the Governor to head the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

“Local Emergency Management Director” is the person nominated by the local governments and appointed by the State Emergency Management Director to implement the Local Emergency Operations Plan.

“Emergency Management” is the preparation and implementation of all emergency functions, other than functions for which military forces are primarily responsible; to prevent, minimize, and repair injury and damage resulting from emergencies, energy emergencies, disasters, or the imminent threat thereof, of manmade or natural origin. “These functions include, without limitation, fire-fighting services; police services [public safety]; medical and health services; rescue; engineering; warning services; communications; defense from radiological, chemical, and other special weapons; evacuation of persons from stricken areas; emergency welfare services; emergency transportation; [nuclear power] plant protection; temporary restoration of public service utility services; and other functions related to civilian protection, together with all other activities necessary or incidental to the preparation for and carrying out of the foregoing functions.” (*Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, As Amended December 1992, Chapter 3, Article 1, 38-3-3.*)

#### **SECTION II - LOCAL ORGANIZATION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

In agreement with the governing officials of the cities within the county, the Columbia County Emergency Management Agency is hereby established. The chairperson of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners with the concurrence of officials of the cities within the county shall nominate, for appointment by the state emergency management director, a Director of the Columbia County Emergency Management Agency. Upon appointment the local emergency management agency director shall have direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operations of the local

organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and control of the executive officer or governing body and shall serve at the pleasure of such executive officer or governing body. When appointed, the local Emergency Management Director is charged with the following duties:

- (a) Represent the governing officials of the county on matters pertaining to emergency management.
- (b) Assist local officials in organizing county departments for emergency operations.
- (c) Develop, in conjunction with county and city departments, the Columbia County Emergency Operations Plan for emergency functions. Such plan will be in consonance with the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan and shall be submitted to the governing officials of Columbia County and the cities within the county for approval, and thence to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency for approval.
- (d) Maintain the Emergency Management Agency and carry out the day-to-day administration of the Columbia County emergency management program, including the submission of required reports, to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.
- (e) Submit reports as required by governmental officials in keeping with good management practices, e.g., financial, daily activities, etc.
- (f) Obtain, with the authority of governing officials, a facility identified and utilized as the Columbia County Emergency Operations Center.
- (g) Coordinate the activities of the Columbia County Emergency Operating Staff during periods of emergency, and under the supervision of Columbia County governing officials.

### **SECTION III - COLUMBIA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

The Columbia County Emergency Management Agency shall be established around existing county and city departments, as well as human service and private sector departments/agencies. The emergency support functions, (ESFs) and department / agency assignments are identified within the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Annexes and / or standard operating guides (SOGs) will be submitted to the Emergency Management Director for inclusion in the local EOP for submission to appropriate local officials for approval.

### **SECTION IV – AUTHORITY DURING AN EMERGENCY OR DISASTER**

In the event of a man-made or natural disaster or emergency which may effect the lives and property of the citizens of Columbia County the Chairperson of the Columbia County Commissioners, separately or jointly with the Mayors of the Cities of Grovetown and Harlem, or in their absence their legally appointed successors, may determine that an emergency or disaster exists. Thereafter, the Chairperson shall have and may exercise for such periods as an emergency or disaster continues, the following authority:

(1) Appropriate and expend funds, execute contracts, and to obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency management purposes;

(2) Provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency assistance to the victims of any emergency or disaster resulting from manmade or natural causes or enemy attack and to direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with the policies and plans set by the federal and state emergency management agencies;

(3) Appoint, employ, remove, or provide, with or without compensation, chiefs of services, warning personnel, rescue teams, auxiliary fire and police personnel, and other emergency management workers;

(4) Establish a primary and one or more secondary control centers to serve as command posts during an emergency or disaster;

(5) Subject to the order of the Governor or the chief executive of the political subdivision, assign and make available for duty the employees, property, or equipment of the subdivision relating to fire-fighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services. Furthermore, assign to police, transportation, construction, and similar services for emergency management purposes, within or outside of the physical limits of the subdivision;

(6) In addition to the heretofore stated powers and authorities, acquire temporarily or permanently, by purchase, lease, or otherwise, sites required for installation of temporary housing units for disaster victims. enter into necessary arrangements including purchase of temporary housing units and payment of transportation charges, which are required to prepare or equip such sites to utilize the housing units.

(Chapter 3, Article 2, 38-3-27 OCGA.)

## **SECTION V - VOLUNTEERS**

All persons, other than officers and employees of Columbia County, performing emergency functions pursuant to this resolution / ordinance, shall serve with or without compensation. While engaged in such emergency functions, duly assigned volunteers

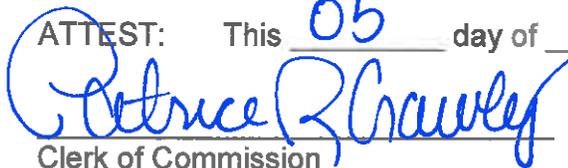
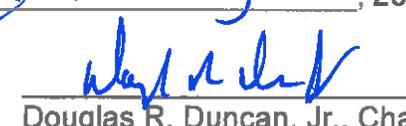
shall have the same immunities as county officers and employees. *Immunity does not apply in cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence or bad faith. (Chapter 3, Article 2, 38-3-35.)* Any person violating any provision of this chapter, rule, order or regulation made pursuant to this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished as a misdemeanor.

**SECTION VI – LIBERALITY OF CONSTRUCTION**

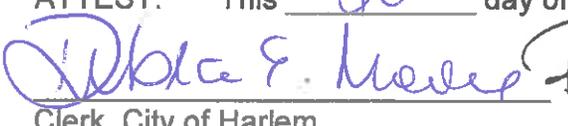
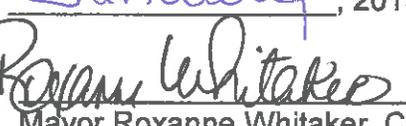
This resolution shall be construed liberally in order to effect its purpose.

**SECTION VII – EFFECTIVE DATE**

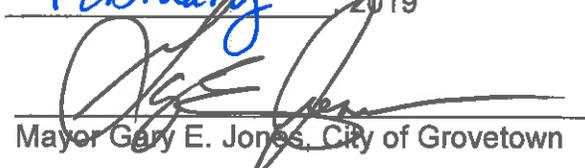
This resolution is effective immediately and where the provisions of this resolution are in conflict with existing local laws, the provisions of this resolution will govern and such provisions of existing laws which are in conflict are hereby rescinded.

ATTEST: This 05 day of February, 2019  
  
Clerk of Commission  
  
Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman  
Columbia County Board of Commissioners

The foregoing Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia, having been presented to the Council of Harlem, Georgia, and the same having been adopted as a Resolution of the Council, the same is adopted.

ATTEST: This 28th day of January, 2019  
  
Clerk, City of Harlem  
  
Mayor Roxanne Whitaker, City of Harlem

The foregoing Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia, having been presented to the Council of Grovetown, Georgia, and the same having been adopted as a Resolution of the Council, the same is adopted.

ATTEST: This 11th day of February, 2019  
  
Clerk, City of Grovetown  
  
Mayor Gary E. Jones, City of Grovetown

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing pages of typewritten matter constitute a true and correct copy of an Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners duly held on February 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., which was open to the public and at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the original of said document appears of record in the Resolution Book of the Board, which is in my custody and control.

Given under my hand and seal of Columbia County, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

  
Patrice R. Crawley  
Clerk of Commission

