

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03

of the Board of Lander County Commissioners

SUMMARY: A RESOLUTION REMOVING LANDER COUNTY FROM A STATE OF EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Nevada issued a Declaration of Emergency to facilitate the State's response to the Covid-19 pandemic on March 12, 2020 and has issued over thirty-five (35) emergency directives since that date; and

WHEREAS, a State of Emergency was declared by the Lander County Board of County Commissioners by Proclamation 2020-02 on March 18, 2020 as a result of a public health event (Covid-19) and the impacts to hospital emergency rooms, local government agencies, local business, residents and visitors, and

WHEREAS, Lander County in an effort to avoid irreparable economic damage to local businesses, has previously created a policy wherein a business owner who has incurred expenses in the form of fines, penalties, or legal fees due to a state government directive can get reimbursement from the County with the County pursuing all legal defenses on behalf of the business; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada has steadfastly refused to work directly with rural Nevada to create policies tailored to rural Nevada, instead mandating "one-size-fits-all" policies created for more densely-populated counties; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes that the Governor's Covid-19 related restrictions have caused damaging long-term economic effects on the Lander County economy; and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution declares, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United State"; and

WHEREAS, the Great Barrington Declaration issued by infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists and co-signed by more than fifty-two thousand (52,000) medical professionals states, “Current lockdown policies are producing devastating effects in short and long-term public health” and “keeping these measures in place will cause irreparable damage”; and

WHEREAS, decisions affecting the health and well being of Lander County citizens must be based on empirical evidence without regard to politics or the influence of special interest groups; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 244 of the Nevada Revised Statutes establishes the County’s authority to regulate matters of local concern, including the public health, safety and welfare of those in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Lander County Board of County Commissioners finds that the public health, safety and welfare of those in the County as well as the economic prosperity of the County is a matter of local concern; and

WHEREAS, the Lander County Health Board has recommended that “we are no longer in an emergency situation and there is more damage being done to our children and the economy due to restrictions than due to virus and it’s time to get back to work and back to school”.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lander County Commission hereby removes Lander County from the previously declared State of Emergency and declares that the County is open and free of restrictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our County is extremely concerned about the impacts to our children of any further delays to in-person education and therefore all school districts in our jurisdiction are urged to safely open all schools as soon as possible with no restrictions and no masks and provide in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible without further delay.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of February, 2021.

THOSE VOTING AYE: Commissioner: _____

Commissioner: _____

Commissioner: _____

Commissioner: _____

Commissioner: _____

THOSE VOTING NAY: Commissioner: _____

Commissioner: _____

THOSE ABSENT: Commissioner: _____

Commissioner: _____

Kathleen V. Ancho, Chair

Lander County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY,

SADIE SULLIVAN, County Clerk and Ex-Officio
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of
Lander County, Nevada

THEODORE C. HERRERA
Lander County District Attorney