

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN WAYNE COUNTY,
GEORGIA**

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a National Public Health Emergency on Friday, March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State of Emergency in Georgia on June 30, 2021, which remains in place through September 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a world health emergency and a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Emergency Management Ordinance grants to the Chairperson or County Administrator in concurrence with the Wayne County Commissioners separately, or jointly with the mayors of Jesup, Odum and Screven the power to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public during a declared state of emergency; and,

WHEREAS, since the virus appeared in Wayne County in 2020, there have been 3701 confirmed cases of COVID -19 in Wayne County, which amounts to over 10% of our population;

WHEREAS, since the virus appeared in Wayne County in 2020, there have been 88 confirmed deaths cause by COVID-19 in Wayne County;

WHEREAS, in December 2020, the FDA authorized emergency use of three COVID-19 vaccines in the United States: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and J&J/Janssen; and;

WHEREAS, following initial implementation of the vaccines, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wayne County was steadily trending downward; and

WHEREAS, the CDC's updated guidance reported that a new variant-the Delta variant-has become the predominant strain of the virus in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, the Delta variant is nearly twice as contagious as previous variants and may cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated persons; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, unvaccinated people remain the greatest concern because the greatest risk of transmission of the Delta variant is among unvaccinated people; and

WHEREAS, the national goal for vaccination was set at 70% of the population, but only 34% of citizens in Wayne County have received the first dose of the vaccine, and only 29% are fully vaccinated; and;

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that vaccines in the US are proving to be highly effective, including against the Delta variant; and

WHEREAS, there are several surrounding counties that have a higher COVID-19 infection rate coupled with a lower vaccination rate than Wayne County, many of which do not have a local hospital; and

WHEREAS, local physicians, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, fire personnel, law enforcement officers, E911 operators, are weary, stressed and fatigued; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Memorial Hospital has a total of 88 staffed beds, currently 56 of those are occupied by COVID-19 infected patients; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Memorial Hospital has set up an on-site testing location and a triage-assessment area outside in their parking lot; and

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Board of Education has initiated virtual learning for all students due to the county wide COVID-19 infection rate;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in the Chairman by local and state law;

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that a local state of emergency exists in Wayne County Georgia and shall terminate on September 28, 2021 at 11:59 pm, unless renewed;

WHEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED,

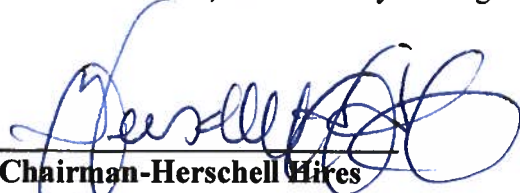
Section 1: In accordance with the recommendations of the CDC, and for the health, safety, and benefit of those who are unable to be vaccinated at this time (i.e. children under the age of 12) who are particularly susceptible to the highly contagious Delta variant, all Wayne County residents are *strongly encouraged* to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

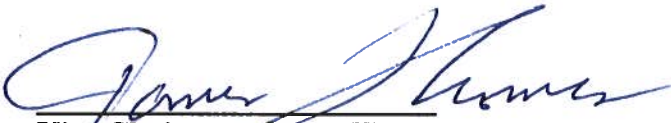
Section 2: In accordance with the recommendations of the CDC, and for the health, safety, and benefit of those who are unable to be vaccinated at this time (i.e. children under the age of 12) who are particularly susceptible to the highly contagious Delta variant, all Wayne County residents are strongly encouraged to wear masks when indoors in public places so as to reduce the transmission of the virus.

Section 3: Any part or parts of this Resolution in conflict with Governor Kemp's Executive Orders dated August 19, 2021, shall be voided from this Resolution.


SIGNATURE PAGE ATTACHED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

SO ENTERED, this 30th day of August, 2021.


Chairman-Herschell Hires
District 1



Vice Chairman-James Thomas
District 4


District 2- Kevin McCrary


District 3-Mike Roberts

District 5-Vacated

ATTEST:


Amanda Hannah
County Clerk