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Pima County Board of Supervisors

To: Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

From: Dr. Matt Heinz, Supervisor, District 2

Date: July 28, 2021

RE: BOS Agenda 08/10/21 – Proclaiming an Emergency in Pima County due to COVID-19

Please place the following on the regular agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 10, 2021.

Board of Supervisors

Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors proclaiming the existence of an emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Pima County. (Resolution attached.)

Thank you.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - __

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF AN
EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 26-311(A) provides that, whenever the Chair of the Board of Supervisors for the unincorporated portion of a county deems that an emergency exists due to natural or man-made calamity or disaster ... which endangers life or property within the unincorporated areas of the county, the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, if authorized by ordinance or resolution, may by proclamation declare an emergency or a local emergency to exist and thereafter govern by proclamation; and
2. WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak; and
3. WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the spread of COVID- 19 to constitute a global pandemic; and
4. WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Arizona, Douglas A. Ducey, declared that a State of Emergency exists in Arizona due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
5. WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, then President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, found and proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constituted a national emergency; and
6. WHEREAS, On March 19, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona, determined that an emergency or local emergency existed within unincorporated Pima County due to COVID-19. This emergency declaration was subsequently rescinded on July 6, 2021 by a 3-2 vote of the Board; and
7. WHEREAS, COVID-19 still presents a substantial and growing risk to public health within and outside the boundaries of Pima County. As of July 28, 2021, in Arizona, more than 18,180 people have died from COVID-19, with 14 new deaths reported in the previous two days. Within Pima County, more than 2,450 people have died from COVID-19, out of roughly 120,000 reported cases in the county — with 172 new reported infections over the previous two days as of July 28, 2021; and

8. WHEREAS, The emergence of the much more transmissible Delta variant of the virus has led to increased rates of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths in Pima County and statewide, particularly among communities who have been unable or unwilling to be vaccinated; and
9. WHEREAS, the number of COVID-19 cases and percentage of positive COVID-19 tests in Pima County have been steadily rising since the beginning of June, 2021. In early July, the Arizona Department of Health Services dashboard showed Pima County transitioning from “Moderate Transmission” to “Substantial Transmission” with respect to cases of the virus, and case numbers continue to increase. During the same period, neighboring Pinal and Maricopa Counties, as well as the majority of counties in the state, have met the “High Transmission” benchmarks for new case numbers; and
10. WHEREAS, While a significant portion of any population remains unvaccinated against COVID-19, as significant portions of Pima County’s, Arizona’s, and the United States’ populations still remain, the virus will continue to mutate and create new variants, of unknown lethality and transmissibility; and
11. WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. On May 10, 2021, the FDA expanded the Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 to include adolescents 12 through 15 years of age, with 16 and 17 year olds having already been eligible under the original Emergency Use Authorization for adults; and
12. WHEREAS, As of July 28, 2021, children under the age of 12 are not yet eligible to receive any COVID-19 vaccination in the United States; and
13. WHEREAS, Local school districts began classes this month, and no child under the age of 12 is as yet vaccinated. This poses a public health risk for those students and their family members, as well as for teachers and school staff who interact with students regularly;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

SECTION 1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby finds, pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-311, that an emergency or local emergency exists in unincorporated Pima County related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

SECTION 2. The Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to declare by proclamation that an emergency or local emergency exists, and is empowered to govern by proclamation, as authorized by A.R.S. § 26-311, in consultation with the County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer; and

SECTION 3. The emergency or local emergency shall remain in effect until the Board of Supervisors, in consultation with the County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer, issues a proclamation determining that an emergency no longer exists.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this ____ day of August, 2021.

Sharon Bronson
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Julie Castañeda
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sam Brown
Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney