



**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2020-14**

**Request for Delegation of Authority to Local Governments During the COVID-19 Pandemic and to Reopen Businesses Ordered Closed Using Safeguards Currently in Place**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of New Mexico issued Executive Order 2020-04, in response to an outbreak of a novel coronavirus identified as COVID-19, declaring a state of public health emergency under the Public Health Emergency Response Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 6, 2020, the Governor of New Mexico issued an Executive Order, which among other actions, extended the declaration of a public health emergency until May 1, 2020, unless rescinded or extended; and

**WHEREAS**, the Order of March 23, 2020, in which the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health defined essential business and ordered that all non-essential businesses reduce their in-person workforce by 100%; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 6, 2020, the Secretary amended the March 23, 2020, Order and ordered that all non-essential businesses, including non-profits, close office spaces, retail spaces, or other public spaces of the businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, in rural areas all businesses perform essential services; and

**WHEREAS**, small businesses in rural areas have less foot traffic and can implement those virus mitigation practices ordered by the Secretary; and

**WHEREAS**, the blanket closure of small businesses deemed non-essential by the Order's definition poses a significant threat to the ultimate survival of those businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners have been duly elected by the citizens of Roosevelt County to lead; and

**WHEREAS**, the local governing body is better equipped to facilitate emergency plans for the local area and balance the health and public safety concerns with the economic impacts to our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, data related to COVID-19 shows that the virus has impacted countries, states, political subdivisions, and geographical areas differently; and

**WHEREAS**, Roosevelt General Hospital is vital to the local emergency plan and will aid the local governing body in serving the best interest of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the one case of COVID-19 in Roosevelt County has been deemed recovered, leaving the county with zero active cases; and

**WHEREAS**, the model of social distancing by tracking cell phones is an invasion of privacy and does not accurately reflect the health safety practices of rural New Mexico; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Roosevelt County, finds:

1. No one rule related to which businesses may stay open is appropriate for every political subdivision or geographical area of New Mexico.
2. Small businesses or those defined as non-essential can implement those same mitigating practices that are required of essential businesses.

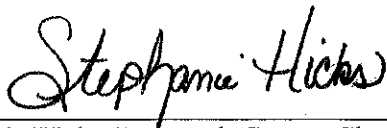
**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Roosevelt County recommends to the Governor and Department of Health Secretary as follows:

1. Allow those businesses that are deemed non-essential to reopen using those same mitigating practices that are required of essential businesses.
2. Allow local governing bodies to lead the local Emergency Action Plans to ensure a balanced approach to both public safety and economic health in response to COVID-19.

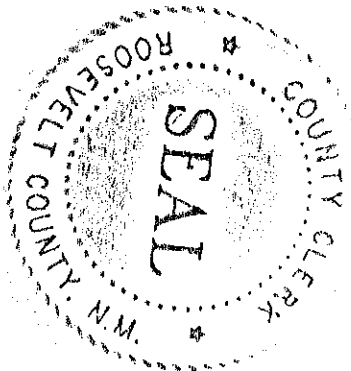
**PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this 20th day of April, 2020.

**BODY OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

ATTEST:



Stephanie Hicks, Roosevelt County Clerk



*Telephonically approved*

Matthew Hunton, Chairman – District II

Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

*Telephonically approved*

Tina Dixon, Vice Chair – District IV

Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

*Telephonically abstained*

Dennis Lopez – District I

Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

*Telephonically approved*

Lewis (Shane) Lee – District III

Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

*Telephonically approved*

Paul Grider – District V

Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

