WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020 due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Alabama States declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020 due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus epidemic; and

WHEREAS, County Commissions have the power and authority to provide for the health and safety of persons, which includes county personnel; and

WHEREAS, public health agencies have recommended the practice of social distancing and self-isolation to slow the spread of the pandemic to assist healthcare providers in keeping the number of those experiencing severe symptoms at a manageable level; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Alabama States stated in the proclamation that “individuals to adopt far-reaching social-distancing measures, such as working from home and avoiding gathering of more than 10 people;” and social distancing and according to Alabama Public Department of Public Health employee should practice social distancing, maintaining consistent six-foot distance between persons; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a serious public health risk to our County stemming from it being a novel respiratory disease impacting the services provided to citizens as well as hospitals, schools, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Commission has decided to close the courthouse to the public and all non-essential Monroe County Commission owned or leased or controlled facilities as determined by the President of the Monroe County Commission, but will provide service to the public at a minimum schedule as determined by the department heads; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Commission shall grant two weeks of additional paid leave to all county personnel for the COVID-19 Coronavirus epidemic; however, there will be no cash payment for this benefit upon separation from of the Monroe County Commission effective immediately commencing at 11:00am, on March 20, 2020; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MONROE COUNTY COMMISSION:
1) That Monroe County courthouse be closed to the public effective Friday, March 20, 2020 at 11:00 am until April 6, 2020; however, this date may be extended due to the unknown circumstances that we are facing; and

2) that the Chairman, and Vice Chairman are hereby authorized to execute the necessary contracts, agreements, and other documents necessary for the continuity of government under the provisions of the Code of Alabama, §31-9-10(b); and

3) that the Sheriff’s Office, County Jail, Emergency Management, County Commission, and Road Department & Engineering are departments providing essential services to the public or support services and shall continue to operate in a limited manner as needed to ensure the safety, welfare and health of our employees and citizens; and

4) that county employees will continue to be paid during the time that the county facilities are closed with the allocated leave time.

5) Regularly scheduled commission meetings are canceled until further notice.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Monroe County Commission shall grant two weeks of additional paid leave to all county personnel for the COVID-19 Coronavirus epidemic; however, there will be no cash payment for this benefit upon separation from of the Monroe County Commission effective immediately commencing at 11:00am, on March 20, 2020 and that this State of Emergency and the aforesaid provisions of this resolution shall continue until otherwise determined by vote of the Monroe County Commission.

DONE, this the 20th day of March 2020.

MONROE COUNTY COMMISSION

By: __________________________
Sonya Stinson
Commission President
Monroe County

Attest: _________________________
Gwendolyn D. Richardson
County Administrator