WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of Florida, and the Federal Government have recommended or ordered numerous precautions to help slow the spread of COVID-19 so as to limit illness and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Apalachicola Comprehensive Emergency Plan is hereby activated and the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola (the Board) and their representatives shall have the power, authorities and duties to take any and all action under the plan necessary for the preservation of the health, welfare and safety of the people and property of the City of Apalachicola, Florida; and,

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 252.38 provides authority and responsibility for safeguarding the life and property of the citizens of the City of Apalachicola, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 252.38 provides authority for the waiver by the Board of procedures and formalities otherwise required of the City of Apalachicola under the circumstance of a Local State of Emergency; and,

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed Special Meeting held on March 23, 2020, the Apalachicola City Commission approved the subject matter of this State of Emergency Proclamation; it is:

ORDERED that

1. The City of Apalachicola is closing lodging to all tourists and leisure visitors, effective Wednesday, March 25 at 12 noon,

2. Effective Wednesday, March 25 at 12 noon, no lodging establishment or person shall accommodate rental occupants until further notice, with the exception of:
   A. medical professionals, military personnel, first responders, government workers, emergency workers, contractors doing licensed work in the City of Apalachicola or Franklin County, or others engaged in formal business or government business in Apalachicola or Franklin County:
B. relatives of citizens currently living in the City of Apalachicola

3. Effective Wednesday, March 25 at 12 noon all new short-term lodging and vacation rental occupancy (defined as less than 28 days), new transient marina rental occupancy, and RV rental occupancy shall cease. All current marina renters shall be allowed to stay, and anyone who is currently lodging on other properties shall be allowed to stay for a maximum of seven (7) days.

This Emergency Proclamation will continue to be in effect in seven (7) day increments unless rescinded by the Mayor of the City of Apalachicola or the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola.

DONE this 24th day of March, 2020, at 1 p.m. E.T.

FOR THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA

BY:  
Kevin Begos, Mayor

ATTEST
Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk