



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wildwood Officials Plan to Issue Emergency Declaration Wednesday

Wildwood's city commission will convene a special meeting at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow, Sept. 25, 2024, to issue a local declaration of emergency in advance of Tropical Storm Helene.

Wildwood's declaration will follow one planned by the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners for 5:30 p.m. today and an executive order issued by Gov. Ron DeSantis declaring a state of emergency in 61 Florida counties, including Sumter.

"We are positioning ourselves in a state of preparedness, should a worst-case scenario develop," said Jason McHugh, Wildwood's city manager. "We hope for the best at times like these but need to take every step possible to protect the safety and wellbeing of our residents. Every storm brings unique challenges. We learn from each one and look to improve how we plan for and respond to the next."

Sumter County serves as the lead for local emergency management programs and services, per executed interlocal agreements. It operates the Sumter County Emergency Operations Center, sandbag facilities, and emergency shelters.

"We maintain an excellent working relationship with Sumter County officials and will remain in close contact as we monitor this weather system," McHugh added. "If severe wind, rain, and/or flooding conditions develop in this area, we will work together to provide updates and resources."

For more information about Sumter County's emergency management services, please visit <https://www.sumtercountyfl.gov/718/Emergency-Management> or call 352-689-4400.

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