

TOWN OF GRIFFITH, INDIANA

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

August 11, 2026

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2026, the Town of Griffith, Indiana, experienced a severe storm event that caused significant damage throughout the community, including downed trees, debris, damaged infrastructure, hazardous road conditions, power-related hazards, and other threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the extent of the storm damage has required a substantial response from the Griffith Police Department, Griffith Fire Department, Public Works Department, other Town personnel, elected officials, utility providers, and other emergency resources; and

WHEREAS, hazardous conditions continue to exist throughout the Town, and unnecessary travel may interfere with emergency response, damage assessment, debris removal, utility restoration, and other recovery operations; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 10-14-3-29 authorizes the principal executive officer of a political subdivision to declare a local disaster emergency when conditions warrant such action;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK RYFA, PRESIDENT OF THE GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, INDIANA, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY EXISTS WITHIN THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

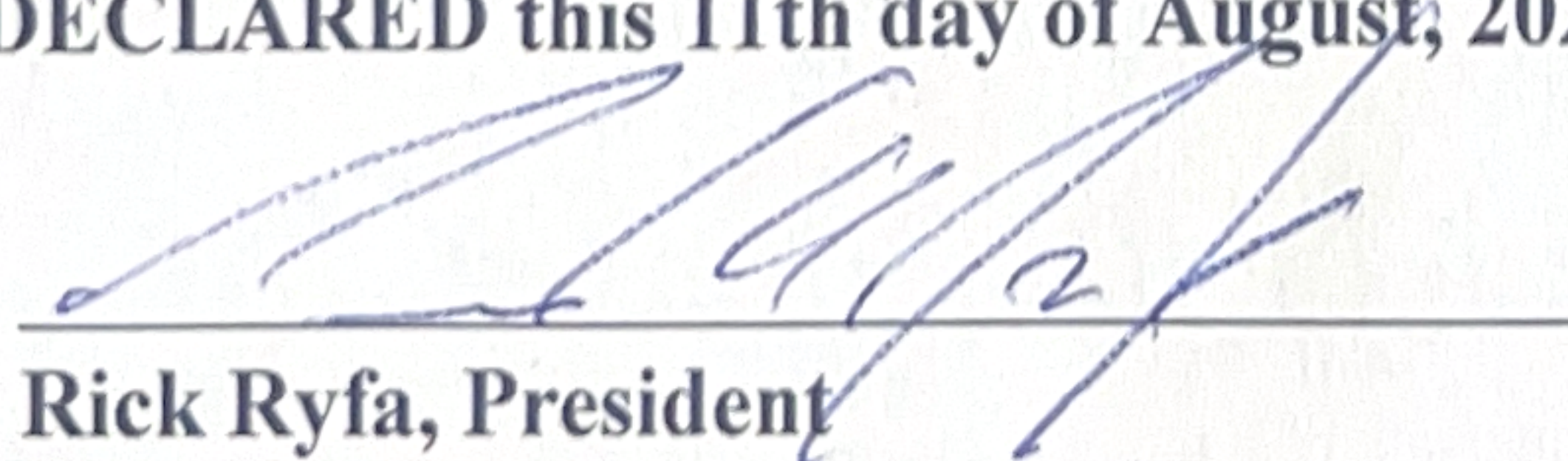
This declaration shall:

1. Activate all applicable emergency response and recovery plans and authorize the use of available Town personnel, equipment, resources, and mutual aid necessary to protect life and property and respond to the effects of this emergency.
2. Authorize Town departments and officials to take all lawful and necessary actions to respond to the emergency, assess damage, clear roadways, restore essential services, protect public infrastructure, and assist affected residents.
3. Strongly urge all residents and visitors to avoid unnecessary travel throughout the Town of Griffith so that emergency responders, Public Works crews, utility personnel, and other essential workers may safely perform their duties.
4. Direct residents requiring immediate police, fire, or emergency medical assistance to call 911.
5. Request the cooperation and assistance of Lake County, the State of Indiana, utility providers, neighboring jurisdictions, and other public or private entities as may be necessary during response and recovery operations.

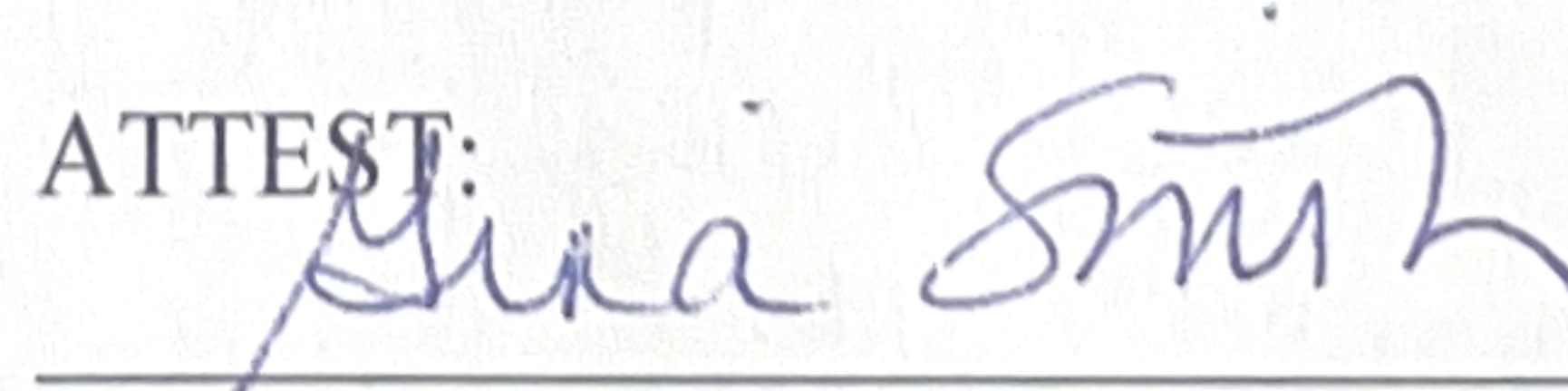
This Local Disaster Emergency Declaration shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed seven (7) days unless terminated earlier or continued or renewed in accordance with Indiana law.

This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be promptly filed with the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Griffith.

DECLARED this 11th day of August, 2026.


Rick Ryfa, President
Griffith Town Council
Town of Griffith, Indiana

ATTEST:


Gina Smith, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Griffith, Indiana