



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wildwood City Officials Urge Residents to Prepare for Storm
*Storm Nicole Expected to Bring Strong Wind and Rain***

With a tropical storm warning in effect for Sumter County, Wildwood officials are urging city residents to take precautions in advance of Tropical Storm Nicole.

Governor Ron DeSantis yesterday issued Executive Order 22-253, declaring a state of emergency in areas of the projected storm path, including Sumter County. The Board of County Commissioners is expected to declare a state of emergency at its meeting this evening.

“While we realize residents may be feeling storm fatigue after Hurricane Ian, we are advising them to take this—and every—tropical storm threat seriously,” said City Manager Jason McHugh. “The forecast can change significantly in a short period of time, and citizens should be prepared in the event conditions become severe.”

Sumter County serves as lead for local emergency management programs and services throughout the entire county, and provides a detailed list of tropical storm and hurricane preparation recommendations on their website at <https://www.sumtercountyfl.gov/752/Before-a-Storm>.

“I’ve lived here more than a half-century, and there’s one thing I’ve learned for certain during that time,” said Wildwood Mayor Ed Wolf. “You can never be sure what Mother Nature is going to do, so we all need to prepare for the worst while we hope and pray for the best. Now is not the time to let down our guard, no matter how much we want this to be a non-event.”

“We will continue to work closely with Sumter County officials to monitor conditions and adjust as needed,” added McHugh. “Our team is experienced and dedicated to protecting our residents and businesses, and is taking appropriate steps to prepare. We do not anticipate any disruptions to city services at this time, but will keep citizens informed of any significant changes as the week progresses.”

Residents with any specific storm-related concerns should call Sumter County at 352-689-4400.

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