



**TOWN OF PINE LEVEL EMERGENCY ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE PROHIBITING PRICE GOUGING**

WHEREAS, a state of emergency was declared in Johnston County, North Carolina, on September 6, 1996, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Pine Level, being a party to the Johnston County Emergency Operations Plan, is therefore included in the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, certain merchants are now taking advantage of the emergency situation by increasing prices for essential goods and/or services, engaging in a practice known as "Price Gouging"; and

WHEREAS, the Johnston County Board of Commissioners has adopted an ordinance prohibiting "Price Gouging" in the unincorporated areas of the county,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PINE LEVEL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS hereby prohibits any merchant selling any goods or providing any services within the incorporated area of the town from raising prices above the pre-disaster (pre September 6, 1996) levies. Sales of goods or services at a price above pre-disaster level shall only be permissible if merchants can document in writing the purchase of these goods at increased cost.

Violations of the provisions of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$200.00 per incident and 30 days in jail. Each sale shall constitute a separate offense.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS ADOPTION.

DULY ADOPTED, THIS THE 11TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1996.

Michael Walters, Mayor

ATTEST:
Sharon Thompson, Town Clerk