OFFICE OF MAYOR
KEITH WILSON

City of Portland

IN THE MATTER OF THE	**)**	**EMERGENCY DECLARATION DUE TO**
LOCAL EMERGENCY	**)**	**"CENTENNIAL MILLS FIRE"**
WITHIN THE CITY OF PORTLAND	**)**	
DECLARED FOR AUGUST 10th, 2026	**)**	**"ED-2026-002"**

WHEREAS, on Sunday, August 2, 2026, firefighters responded to a four-alarm fire at the Centennial Mills building at 1362 NW Naito Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the fire led to the severe compromise of the structural integrity of the building; and

WHEREAS, debris from the fire has been found on nearby properties and residences; and

WHEREAS, debris from the fire was tested and determined to contain asbestos and lead which may risk injury to persons or property including the railroad; and

WHEREAS, there is concern for the public safety and well-being of all individuals and properties in the vicinity of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the imminent potential structure failure requires a continued closure and safety perimeter around the site of the fire and compromised building; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the vicinity has created serious disruption to transportation and commerce, including the disruption of passenger and freight railway service; and

WHEREAS, the decision to resume freight traffic through the affected area further increases the risk to the compromised site due to the proximity of the rail tracks and vibrations caused by rail movement which is likely to heighten the existing structural instability and create an imminent threat to public safety, critical infrastructure, or continued safe operation of the site; and

WHEREAS, significant health risks to the regional population exist in the event of the building collapsing and impacting the rail line or train on the line due to freight traffic on the rail lines that are within the building collapse zone which may contain hazardous materials, including toxic inhalation hazards (TIH) and poison inhalation hazards (PIH); the railroad has represented it will delay running trains containing TIH or PIH only through August 21, 2026;

WHEREAS, the fire and building debris requires an expedited and coordinated response beyond that which occurs routinely and the required response is not achievable solely with added resources available through mutual aid or cooperative service agreements; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to ensure expedient steps are taken to protect the safety and health of the community, including coordinating public communications and other response or mitigation activities; and

THEREFORE, pursuant to my authority under the Portland City Charter, City Code, and any other applicable law, I hereby Order as follows:

1.State of Emergency. A State of Emergency exists within the City of Portland under the Portland City Code Chapter 15.04 effective at **8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10th, 2026**.

2. Mayor's Designee. The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Management or their designee shall serve as the Mayor's designee under this Emergency Declaration. The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Management or their designee shall take all necessary steps authorized by law to coordinate a response and recovery from this emergency, including, but not limited to, requesting assistance from the State of Oregon.

In addition to other priority tasks, the Mayor's designee will undertake to do the following:

a. **Executive Policy Group and Command Structure.** Establish, as may be necessary, an Executive Policy Group to set incident priorities and provide policy direction and support, and an Incident or Unified Command or Recovery Operations Center, to set incident objectives and direct all City resources.

b. **Expedited Response and Recovery.** Ensure an expedited and coordinated response to the impacts of the compromised structural integrity of the Centennial Mills building, including without limitation the possible collapse of the building, removal of debris, mitigating transportation impacts including to passenger or freight railway service, addressing environmental issues, or responding to other life, safety, or property damage impacts that may occur.

c. **Emergency Procurements.** Procurement authority under this emergency declaration is delegated to the Director of the Bureau of Emergency Management, or designee, and the Chief Procurement Officer. Competition is encouraged to the extent possible, but the requirement is exempted for all solicitations conducted under this emergency.

d. **Coordination**. Coordinate with government and other partners as the Mayor's Designee deems appropriate to respond to the State of Emergency.

3. Command Structure. The City's response to the emergency shall be managed by Incident Command or Unified Command appointed by the Director of the Bureau of Emergency Management or their designee.

4. Non-Represented City Employees. City employees who are non-represented and exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), excluding executive and senior managers, are authorized to receive straight-time compensation on an hour-for-hour overtime basis for additional hours worked to support the City's response to this emergency. All personnel costs associated with supporting the City's efforts to respond to this emergency shall be tracked and borne by the respective bureaus for whom the employees regularly work, and bureaus are authorized to request funding in the Technical Adjustment Ordinance, if necessary, to offset any budget impacts resulting from the City's response to the emergency.

4. Other Provisions.

a. In addition to any other power that may lawfully be exercised by local government, the powers listed in PCC 15.08.020.B are vested in the Mayor and the Mayor's Designee.

b. This State of Emergency shall remain in effect through **11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18th, 2026**, unless otherwise extended, modified, or terminated.

c. If any provision of this Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, or their application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the duly exercised authority, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of the Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED: Dated this 10th day of August 2026

City of Portland, Oregon

By: _____
Keith Wilson, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Heidi K. Brown
Acting City Attorney, Portland, Oregon