



**OFFICE OF MAYOR
TED WHEELER**

City of Portland

**IN THE MATTER OF THE)
LOCAL EMERGENCY)
WITHIN THE CITY OF PORTLAND)
DECLARED FOR January 12, 2024)**

**Emergency Declaration Due to
Severe Cold Weather
"ED-2024-01"**

WHEREAS, the Portland metropolitan area is forecast to experience snow beginning on January 12 and severe cold temperatures beginning on January 12, and continuing through January 16; and

WHEREAS, severe cold weather and snowfall pose a threat to the health and safety of Portlanders, particularly those experiencing houselessness; and

WHEREAS, the inclement weather also poses a risk of impacts to transportation infrastructure, power outages, and other interruptions in utility and other services; and

WHEREAS, the emergency caused by inclement weather is also compounded by the existing Housing Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist, or are projected to exist, justifying an emergency declaration due to inclement weather: emergency shelters becoming overwhelmed, transit service disrupted, City's critical facilities significantly disrupted, resources for cooling supplies for vulnerable people becoming depleted, emergency workers unable to travel, and City bureau's staffing levels become insufficient; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland must marshal any and all available resources to confront the immediate threats posed by inclement weather to the city and its inhabitants.

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 Friday January 12, 2024.**

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. Each Commissioner and Bureau Director shall cooperate and support the Mayor's designee in the centralization of City resources and efforts related to addressing the purposes of this Emergency Declaration. In addition to other priority tasks, the Mayor's designee will undertake to:

- a. **Expedited Response.** Ensure an expedited and coordinated response to the impacts of the severe cold and wintry precipitation.
- b. **Executive Policy Group and Unified Command.** Establish, as may be necessary, an Executive Policy Group to set incident priorities and provide policy direction and support, and a Unified or Incident Command, to set incident objectives and direct all City resources.
- c. **Emergency Procurements.** Shall have all authority authorized under Portland City Code 5.33.135, including but not limited to, the authority to award Emergency Procurement Contracts without competition for the acquisition of goods, services, construction services, and public improvements for the purpose of responding to this Emergency Declaration.
- d. **Costs Associated with Response.** All costs associated with supporting the City's efforts to respond to this emergency shall be tracked and borne by the respective bureaus. The Mayor's Designee is authorized to charge expenses to the City's emergency expense fund, as allowable. Bureaus will be provided further instructions.
- e. **Financial Resources.** The Mayor's Designee shall pursue any and all available financial resources from any lawful source whatsoever that may be used to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare from the threats to the public health and environment, and otherwise respond to the threats giving rise to this Emergency Declaration.
- f. **Coordination.** Coordinate with government and other partners as the Mayor's Designee deems appropriate to respond to the State of Emergency.

4. Warming Centers. The Mayor's designee is hereby authorized to designate appropriate City-owned or operated indoor facilities as per the interim City/County Severe Weather Sheltering Agreement to be open to the public, including without limitation appropriate community centers and other public buildings, but excluding public safety critical infrastructure, for the purpose of providing a safe indoor space for members of the public to avoid the severe cold.

5. City Employees. HR Administrative Rule 4.11, Inclement Weather, is in effect for the duration of this emergency, and Mayor's designee will coordinate with the Bureau of Human Resources to provide additional guidance to City employees regarding the requirements of HRAR 4.11.

6. Financial Resources. The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Management, or their designee, is hereby directed to pursue any and all available financial resources from any lawful source whatsoever that may be used to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare from

the threats of inclement weather, and otherwise respond to the threats giving rise to this Emergency Declaration.

7. 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.

b. For the duration of this emergency, unless otherwise specified by the Mayor and subject to the terms of this Emergency Declaration, the Unified Command, and any orders issued under the authority of this declaration, the current bureau assignments to the members of the City Council shall remain in effect as delegated authority under PCC 15.08.020.A.

c. This State of Emergency shall remain in effect through **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday January 26, 2024**, unless otherwise extended, modified, or terminated.

d. 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 13th day of January, 2024

City of Portland, Oregon

By: 

Ted Wheeler, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Robert Taylor, City Attorney
For Portland, Oregon