



OFFICE OF MAYOR
TED WHEELER

City of Portland

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
LOCAL EMERGENCY) **Emergency Declaration Due to**
WITHIN THE CITY OF PORTLAND) **Snow and Severe Cold Weather**
DECLARED FOR DECEMBER 24-31, 2021)

WHEREAS, the Portland metropolitan area is forecast to be impacted by significant snowfall and severe cold temperatures, beginning on Friday, December 24, 2021, and continuing through Friday, December 31, 2021; and

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

WHEREAS, the inclement weather will pose a risk to those travelling throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, the inclement weather also poses a risk of power outages, and other interruptions in utility services including heating; and

WHEREAS, the emergency caused by inclement weather is also compounded by the existing Housing Emergency and the continuing State of Emergency to address the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist, or are projected to exist, justifying an emergency declaration due to inclement weather: emergency shelters becoming overwhelmed, transportation routes blocked, transit service disrupted, water mains damaged, resources for transporting vulnerable people becoming depleted, emergency workers unable to travel, downed trees blocking roads and causing power outages, and Bureau of Transportation resources being depleted; 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 Portland City Code Chapter 15.04 effective at **8:00 a.m. on Friday, December 24, 2021.**
2. **Unified Command.** The City's response to the emergency shall be managed under a unified command led by the Director of the Bureau of Emergency Management.
3. **Severe Weather Centers.** The unified command led by the Director of the Bureau of Emergency Management is hereby authorized to designate appropriate City-owned or operated indoor facilities 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 snow and cold temperatures. Any non-personnel costs associated with opening the City-owned or operated indoor facilities for purposes of responding to this emergency shall be tracked in special appropriations, and the resulting costs billed to the Joint Office of Homeless Services.
4. **Additional Responses.** The unified command led by the Director of the Bureau of Emergency Management is authorized to provide additional services to the public and vulnerable communities in response to the threats caused by the snow and severe cold temperatures. These additional services may include but are not limited to blankets, clothing, and transportation to severe weather centers.
5. **City Office Buildings.** Pursuant to HRAR 4.11, the Mayor will decide and announce if City office buildings will be closed to the public, except those facilities that are under the sole direction and control of City Bureaus that are outside of the City of Portland downtown area. Pursuant to HRAR 4.11, these facilities include: Bureau of Parks and Recreation Community Centers, Parks Natural Areas and Pools; Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, Tryon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water Pollution Control Lab; Portland Water Bureau Bull Run Headworks; and other locations as designated by the operating bureau and Commissioner in Charge. For those facilities only, the Commissioner in Charge is authorized to make the decision to close during periods of inclement weather.
6. **City Employees.** HR Administrative Rule 4.11, Inclement Weather, is in effect for the duration of this emergency, and the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources is authorized to provide additional guidance to City employees

regarding the requirements of HRAR 4.11. City employees are encouraged to assist at an indoor facility to support the City's effort to address this emergency. City employees who are exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act, but who work extended hours to meet the needs of the City during this emergency are authorized to receive hour for hour overtime. All personnel costs associated with supporting the City's efforts to respond to this emergency, including overtime and straight time for people working on emergency response efforts outside their normal scope of responsibility, shall be tracked and borne by a special appropriation for emergency response.

7. 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.

8. 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 **5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 31, 2021**, 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 23rd day of December, 2021

City of Portland, Oregon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Wheeler', written over a horizontal line.

By: _____

Ted Wheeler, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Robert Taylor, City Attorney
For Portland, Oregon