

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

### EXECUTIVE RULE NO. 397

#### Declaration of Emergency Due to Extreme Winter Weather

- A. Multnomah County is authorized under ORS 401.305 to act as an emergency management agency, including authority to establish policies and protocols for defining and directing responsibilities during time of emergency.
- B. Multnomah County has enacted a local ordinance, Multnomah County Code § 25.410 et seq., pursuant to the authority granted by ORS 401.025 et seq. and the Multnomah County Charter, that provides for executive responsibility in times of emergency and specifically delegates authority to declare a state of emergency to the County Chair, or in the Chair's absence or inability to perform the functions of office, the most senior member of the Board, or in the senior member of the Board's absence or inability, the Sheriff, or in the Sheriff's absence or inability, the Chair's designated interim, or in the Chair's designated interim's absence or inability, the Sheriff's designated interim.
- C. The Chair is authorized pursuant to Multnomah County Code § 7.007, to adopt Executive Rules to implement and enforce provisions of the Multnomah County Code and to carry out the Chair's duties under the Charter.
- D. The following conditions have resulted in the need for a state of emergency declaration: Extreme cold and winter weather conditions that could impact the health, safety and welfare of Multnomah County residents:
1. The National Weather Service has forecasted a prolonged period of below normal temperatures mixed with precipitation that will create an unusually long snow and ice event throughout Multnomah County.
  2. Projections include the air mass becoming even colder into the beginning of January 2022 with sustained below freezing temperatures and difficult to predict accumulations of snow and ice.
  3. The COVID-19 pandemic has further increased vulnerability among community members, impacting overall health outcomes, economic mobility and social connection in Multnomah County.
- E. The following damage to lives and property can be expected from the above conditions:
1. This prolonged period of uncommonly low temperatures may negatively impact the health and safety of numerous Multnomah County residents.

- F. The following actions are representative of some winter weather response activities:
  - 1. In collaboration with other local government partners, Multnomah County will open warming shelters in Multnomah County available to the public.
  - 2. Multnomah County will leverage the community and individual relationships that their departments have throughout the County to communicate with organizations and individuals about the resources available.
- G. An emergency is declared for the entire County.
- H. All local resources have not been expended.


**NOW, THEREFORE**, the following Executive Rule is adopted:

- 1. The County Chair formally declares a state of emergency for Multnomah County, effective on Friday, December 24, 2021 through January 3, 2022.
- 2. The following additional actions are authorized under Multnomah County Code Chapter 25:
  - A. The Director of the Multnomah County Department of Emergency Management shall take all necessary steps authorized by law to coordinate response and recovery from this emergency, including, but not limited to, requesting assistance from the State of Oregon.
  - B. Price gouging is prohibited; the value received for goods and services sold within designated disaster area may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at, or immediately before, the time of the emergency.
  - C. The Director of County Management is authorized to suspend purchasing rules and to direct the Multnomah County purchasing manager to make or authorize others to make procurements of goods and services under the authority provided in the County's Public Contracting Review Board Rule 47-0280 and ORS 279B.080.
  - D. The Director of County Management is authorized to suspend or modify personnel rules and administrative procedures or enter into memorandums of agreement or exception with union partners if compliance with such provisions would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or pose hardship on the communities we serve or employees of Multnomah County.

E. The Chief Operating Officer may direct County officers and employees to perform or facilitate emergency services.

3. This declaration of emergency shall expire on January 3, 2022, unless rescinded or extended further.

FOR THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHAIR



By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Chair

REVIEWED:

COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON:



By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David N. Blankfeld  
Senior Assistant County Attorney