



Eddie Moran, Mayor
Jeffrey S. Waltman, Sr., President of City Council
815 Washington Street | Reading PA 19601 | 1-877-727-3234

**DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY
FOR THE CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA**

WHEREAS, since March 2020 the City, like the rest of the world, has been severely affected by the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, resulting in the spread of illness and resulting in a tragic number of deaths; and

WHEREAS, despite mitigation efforts and some success in limiting the spread of the virus, variants of the virus have created a new surge in the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Berks County Commissioners issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency to address COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City issued disaster emergency declarations beginning in March of 2020 and ending on or around June 28, 2021 when the General Assembly ended the Commonwealth's declaration of disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501) authorizes the governing body of a political subdivision to declare a disaster emergency "upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent;"

WHEREAS, on December 30, 2021, Berks County issued a declaration of emergency due to the recent surge in cases; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Mayor of the City of Reading and City Council President pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency

Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501), as amended, do hereby proclaim the existence of a disaster emergency in the City of Reading due to COVID-19 and its variants.

FURTHER, we direct the City of Reading Emergency Management Coordinator and response team to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to coordinate the City's activities of the emergency response, to work with county, state and federal authorities, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

FURTHER, in light of the exigencies of this disaster emergency and pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. § 7501(d), we authorize the temporary suspension of all formal requirements, including all time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

This Proclamation of Declaration of Disaster Emergency shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect for seven (7) days unless extended by City Council pursuant to the City's Home Rule Charter.

Authorized this 3rd day of January, 2022

DocuSigned by:

Mayor Eddie Moran

Eddie Moran

Mayor, City of Reading

DocuSigned by:

Jeffrey Waltman Sr

Jeff Waltman

City Council President

ATTEST:

Linda A. Kelleher
Linda A. Kelleher City Clerk

Jan 4 2022
Date