

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2026-005
January 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Declaration of Public Emergency

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in the Mayor of the District of Columbia pursuant to section 422(11) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, 87 Stat. 790, Pub. L. No. 93-198, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22(11), and pursuant to section 5 of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980 ("Public Emergency Act"), effective March 5, 1981, D.C. Law 3-149, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304, and section 2 of the Natural Disaster Consumer Protection Act of 1992 ("NDCPA"), effective March 20, 1992, D.C. Law 9-80, D.C. Official Code § 28-4102, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. FINDINGS (NATURE OF THE PUBLIC EMERGENCY)

The National Weather Service is monitoring an imminent, major winter storm that is approaching the District of Columbia. Snow fall rates are forecast to approach two to three inches (2–3") per hour, with total snow amounts as high as fifteen inches (15") or greater, which may be followed by sleet and freezing rain. Moreover, temperatures are forecasted not to rise above thirty degrees Fahrenheit (30°F) for at least forty-eight (48) hours.

Because the storm is expected to have serious widespread effects, there is an imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents that requires emergency protective actions. Accordingly, by this Order, a public emergency is declared in the District of Columbia, effective immediately.

II. ACTIVATION OF THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The District of Columbia Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") has been activated at Level Three to coordinate logistical and resource support necessary for critical incident responses. The EOC activation level may be increased, if needed, by the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency ("HSEMA").

III. EMERGENCY MEASURES AND REQUIREMENTS

A. The City Administrator, in consultation with the Director of HSEMA, is authorized to implement such measures as may be necessary or appropriate to protect persons and property in the District of Columbia from the conditions caused by this storm. Such measures may include actions authorized under section 5(b) of the Public Emergency Act, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304(b), including requesting federal

disaster assistance and taking measures under the District Response Plan. Such measures may also include, where appropriate, actions to enforce the NDCPA.

- B. This Order shall apply to all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities (collectively, "agencies") of the District Government as necessary or appropriate to implement this Order.
- C. Notwithstanding the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010, effective April 8, 2011, D.C. Law 18-371, D.C. Official Code §§ 2-351.01 *et seq.*, or any other law governing contracts, grants, partnerships, or the incurring of obligations, the Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") of the District of Columbia is authorized to approve disbursement of all appropriations necessary to carry out the District Response Plan or any other element of this Order.
- D. District Government agency directors may authorize overtime for activities directly related to the District's response to the storm and temporary personnel assignments within agencies as needed to assist in the District's response to the storm.
- E. The City Administrator, in coordination with the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of HSEMA, and the CFO, is authorized to apply for financial assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, any other federal, private, or nonprofit disaster relief and recovery organizations, and any other agencies of the United States government to recoup expenditures incurred, or obtain funding needed to respond to and address the impacts of the storm.
- F. The District Response Plan shall be implemented beginning immediately. With the approval of the City Administrator, agencies may take actions under the District Response Plan without regard to established operating procedures relating to the performance of public works, entering into contracts, incurring obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and materials, and expenditure of public funds.
- G. District Government agency directors are authorized to activate, implement, and coordinate mutual aid agreements between the District of Columbia and federal, state, or local jurisdictions as needed to assist in the District's response to the storm.
- H. In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 390.23 (Automatic relief from regulations), any motor carrier or driver operating a commercial motor vehicle and providing direct assistance during this emergency shall not be subject to restrictions on the length of their work hours under 49 CFR §§ 395.3 and 395.5. Accordingly, this Order permits utility workers and District agencies to retain crews to complete emergency repairs and restore services beyond normal work hours.

- I. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 28-4102, it shall be unlawful for any person to charge more than the normal average retail price for any merchandise or service sold during the declared state of emergency.

IV. SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARATION

A Snow Emergency is hereby declared, beginning Saturday, January 24, 2026, at noon. The Snow Emergency shall remain in effect until Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., unless earlier rescinded by the Mayor or the Director of the Department of Public Works. While the Snow Emergency is in effect, motorists shall not park any vehicle or permit any vehicle to remain parked on any snow emergency route, and any vehicles parked on any snow emergency route during the Snow Emergency shall be ticketed and towed.

V. DURATION OF ORDER

This Order shall remain in effect until fifteen (15) days after its effective date, unless earlier rescinded or superseded.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Order shall become effective immediately.



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

ATTEST: 

KIMBERLY A. BASSETT
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA