

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Section 11203(d) of the Third-Class City Code, 11 Pa.C.S. §11203(d), and §136-3 of the Code of the City of Lancaster authorize the Mayor of the City of Lancaster upon determination that a state of emergency exists, to issue a proclamation in writing declaring a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the emergency shelter system of the County of Lancaster currently provides 230 emergency shelter units/beds year-round with contracted winter shelters providing an additional 50 beds; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Coalition, operating under the purview of the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority, estimates the need for at least 40 additional beds to serve the current unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no existing low-barrier shelter operating in the City; and

WHEREAS, construction of the East Clay Street Shelter, 20 East Clay Street, Lancaster PA is underway with anticipated opening in December 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified a need for an interim, temporary shelter to bridge from November 1 through January 31 until the East Clay Street Shelter is open and operating to serve the estimated 50 individuals currently sleeping out of doors in Lancaster City; and

WHEREAS, the City, along with community partners has identified a facility located at 308 East King Street to provide interim, temporary shelter and local resources to staff and supplied the same; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of this declaration of state of emergency coupled with future actions by the Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition, will help ensure this local emergency will be of a temporary nature; and

WHEREAS, this Declaration is necessary to allow the City to work with identified partners to bring to bear interim, temporary shelter as set forth herein to insure the current needs for the interim, temporary shelter are met pending the completion of the new East Clay Street Shelter; and

WHEREAS, upon issuance of this declaration I will be asking City Council of the City of Lancaster to authorize this Declaration to stay in full force and effect until the East Clay Street Shelter is completed and operating, but not the earlier of the completion and beginning of operations of the East Clay Street Shelter or January 31, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby declare a State of Emergency regarding housing and shelter for homeless individuals in the City of Lancaster, and I direct that City staff work with local, non-profit agencies and churches to serve individuals who are experiencing or are at risk for homelessness to provide temporary short-term winter shelter operations and pending the

completion of a new shelter facility by waiving any zoning requirements for such uses; creating an expedited permit process for such uses and the waiver of any fees for such purposes; providing any other regulatory relief from other Ordinances of the City of Lancaster which would otherwise prevent or delay the implementation of such temporary short-term winter sheltering; and taking any other actions reasonably necessary to set forth the goals herein.

This Declaration of State of Emergency shall take effect immediately and notice shall be given of said Declaration by the most feasible means. If authorized by City Council of the City of Lancaster, this Declaration of State of Emergency shall extend until the earlier of the completion of construction and beginning of operations of the East Clay Street Shelter or January 31, 2025, the earlier of. Should this extension of the Declaration to those dates not be approved by the City Council of the City of Lancaster, this Declaration of Emergency shall terminate five (5) days after the date hereof.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LANCASTER



Bernard W. Harris, Jr., City Clerk

By: 

Danene Sorace, Mayor