

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1-24
Declaring a Public Safety Emergency

WHEREAS, every resident of the City of Philadelphia deserves to live, work, learn, and play in a safe and orderly environment;

WHEREAS, in recent years, Philadelphia has suffered from record-breaking levels of violent criminal activity and, in 2023, crimes against persons and property remained significantly elevated;

WHEREAS, for example, in 2023, more than 3,000 shooting incidents occurred, constituting aberrant and unacceptable levels of violent crime in Philadelphia;

WHEREAS, for example, in 2023, property crime offenses increased drastically since 2022, with retail thefts increasing by 28% and thefts of vehicles increasing by 72.4%;

WHEREAS, open-air drug markets continue to proliferate, scourge our communities, and inflict harm upon residents in their immediate proximity and our City as a whole;

WHEREAS, if these conditions persist, they will irreparably harm the health of our communities, the education of our children, the growth of our economy, and the progress of our society;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned conditions constitute emergency circumstances that warrant swift and immediate action;

WHEREAS, enforcing the rule of law and protecting public safety, health, and welfare are among the primary responsibilities of a dutiful municipal government;

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Philadelphia must exercise the complete powers of her office to restore order and abate the public safety emergency;

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Philadelphia will partner with the Council of the City of Philadelphia, and all other branches and levels of government, to prioritize public safety in 2024 and beyond;

WHEREAS, abating this public safety emergency is the foundation of creating a safer, cleaner, and greener Philadelphia with economic opportunity for all;

NOW THEREFORE, I, CHERELLE L. PARKER, by the power vested in me as the One Hundredth Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby order as follows:

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF A PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY

I hereby declare that the current levels of crimes against persons and property in Philadelphia constitute a public safety emergency that the City must abate immediately.

SECTION 2. IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

A. The Police Commissioner shall employ any lawful means necessary to abate the public safety emergency. The Philadelphia Police Department shall vigorously enforce the existing laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the ordinances of the City of Philadelphia while protecting and respecting the constitutional rights of Philadelphia’s residents and visitors.

B. The Police Commissioner, in consultation with the Managing Director, the Director of Finance, and the Chief Public Safety Director, shall develop a comprehensive plan within 100 days for increasing the number of police officers conducting patrol operations throughout Philadelphia. Such plan shall contain, among other things, strategies for maximizing the deployment of the current police force and increasing the number of police officers trained and equipped to engage in community policing across Philadelphia.

C. The Police Commissioner, in consultation with the Managing Director and the Chief Public Safety Director, shall devise a near-term public safety plan for:

i. Reducing the elevated levels of violent crimes, particularly gun-related crimes;

ii. Combatting the elevated levels of crimes against property and quality-of-life offenses, including but not limited to retail theft and the unlawful operation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorbikes within Philadelphia; and

iii. Developing a strategy to permanently shut down all pervasive open-air drug markets, including but not limited to the open-air drug markets in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia.

D. The Managing Director, in consultation with the Mayor's Cabinet, shall identify all necessary financial, personnel, procurement, and regulatory resources, existing and desired, to execute the mandates of this section 2.

E. In thirty (30) days from the Effective Date, the Police Commissioner shall report to the Office of the Mayor on the progress of law enforcement in Philadelphia and the status of the mandates in this section 2.

SECTION 3. INTRAGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

A. Every City department shall prioritize the protection of persons and property in Philadelphia in their departmental operations, to assist the Police Commissioner in the enforcement of the law, and to take all necessary steps when called upon to implement this Order.

B. The Managing Director, to the fullest extent allowable under Section 8-401 of The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, shall deploy employees of City departments and require such other intragovernmental coordination as may be necessary to implement this Order.

SECTION 4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

I call upon all federal, state, and local law enforcement and public safety officials to assist the City in abating this public safety emergency.

SECTION 5. ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY MEASURES

The Managing Director, in consultation with the City Solicitor, shall investigate whether abating the public safety emergency requires the City to invoke additional emergency powers under the statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the ordinances of the City of Philadelphia.

SECTION 6. IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF THE MAYOR'S CABINET

The Mayor, members of her Office, the Mayor's Cabinet, and the Police Commissioner shall convene immediately to begin executing the mandates of this Order.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION

This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for **100 days**. After 100 days, the City shall evaluate its progress and the Mayor may extend this Order or implement new measures at her discretion.

Date: January 2, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cherelle L. Parker", written over a horizontal line.

Cherelle L. Parker, Mayor

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA