

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 02-26**

**DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR  
THE FEBRUARY 22-23, 2026 WINTER SNOWSTORM**

**WHEREAS**, HEAVY SNOW, STRONG WINDS, AND FREEZING TEMPERATURES ARE EXPECTED TO IMPACT THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA ON FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> AND 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2026; AND

**WHEREAS**, the City of Philadelphia declared a Snow Emergency on February 21, 2026;

**WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service has declared that Philadelphia is under a Blizzard Warning beginning at 10:00am this morning;

**WHEREAS**, the forecast from the National Weather Service now calls for 18-24 inches of heavy, wet snow, high winds, and snowfall rates intensifying to as much as two inches an hour;

**WHEREAS**, Philadelphia is placed under the "Extreme" category on the National Weather Service Winter Storm Severity Index;

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth has authorized cities to declare a local disaster emergency under Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management (35 Pa. C.S. § 7501); and

**WHEREAS**, Section 10-819 of The Philadelphia Code authorizes the Mayor of Philadelphia to declare a state of emergency upon a finding that an occurrence may “seriously and substantially endanger the health, safety and property of the citizens”; and

**WHEREAS**, THE NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY IS SUCH THAT the health, safety, property, and welfare of a substantial number of Philadelphians is potentially endangered; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety, property, and welfare of affected residents; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vital for the City to mobilize and utilize all available resources to address this emergency;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, CHERELLE L. PARKER, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, by the powers vested in me by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter and, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501) and Section 10-819 of The Philadelphia Code, do order as follows:

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Disaster Emergency.**

I hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in connection with the FEBRUARY 22-23, 2026 WINTER SNOWSTORM.

**SECTION 2. Emergency Response.**

I direct the Office of Emergency Management to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, coordinate all City departments and agencies to take all appropriate action needed to address the harms caused by the emergency including all activities required for recovery of the storm. Such action shall include the ongoing provision of assistance to City residents in receiving essential public services and accessing public assistance for which they may be eligible, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

**SECTION 3. Additional Response.**

I hereby authorize the Office of Emergency Management, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to authorize any and all City of Philadelphia departments, agencies, boards and commissions to enter into contracts and agreements as may be required to meet the FEBRUARY 22-23, 2026 WINTER SNOWSTORM emergency, without regard to such time-consuming procedures and formalities of Chapter 8-200 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, Chapter 17-1400 of The Philadelphia Code and any other legal requirements applicable to City contracts as determined by the City Solicitor to be within the scope of 35 Pa. C.S. § 7501(d).

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.**

This order shall take effect immediately.

February 22, 2026



Cherelle L. Parker

Date

Cherelle L. Parker, Mayor