

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 05-26

**DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR
RECOVERY FROM THE JULY 11, 2026 MICROBURST STORMS**

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2026, a series of severe microburst storms hit the City of Philadelphia causing building collapses, flooding, fallen wires, uprooted trees, blocked roads, and other damage;

WHEREAS, the damage is particularly concentrated in the neighborhoods of West and South Philadelphia;

WHEREAS, the storms were so severe that a Philadelphia Housing Authority property at 55th and Vine Street sustained roof damage necessitating the relocation of the impacted residents and the partial collapse of a commercial property at 24th and Washington Avenue has required a precautionary evacuation of neighboring residents until emergency demolition can be completed;

WHEREAS, thousands of residents are still without electricity;

WHEREAS, flooding of properties and private vehicles has been reported and has left behind mud and debris in roadways;

WHEREAS, numerous roadways remain inaccessible due fallen trees entangled with utility lines;

WHEREAS, public parks and other public infrastructure have been impacted by these same damages;

WHEREAS, city agencies will be working around the clock through the weekend to assess the damage and begin repairs;

WHEREAS, residents are urged to document any and all damage to their property sustained during the storm and contact their insurance carriers;

WHEREAS, the City will seek state and federal funding to help offset the costs of repairs;

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 recovery of the July 11, 2026 storms.

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 from 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 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.

July 12, 2026

Date



Cherelle L. Parker, Mayor