

**CITY OF AUSTIN DECLARATION OF DISASTER
IN RESPONSE TO DECLARATIONS OF DISASTER
CAUSED BY SEVERE WEATHER**

Recitals

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued a Declaration of State of Disaster due to severe winter weather posing an imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life due to prolonged freezing temperatures, heavy snow and freezing rain statewide and declaring a state of disaster in all 254 Texas counties pursuant to §418.017 of the Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in the February 12, 2021 proclamation pursuant to Section 418.017 of the Texas Government Code, the Governor authorized the use of all available resources of state government and of the of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in the February 12, 2021, pursuant to Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, any regulatory statute prescribing the procedure for conduct of state business or any order or rule of a state agency that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this disaster shall be suspended upon written approval of the Office of the Governor. However, to the extent that the enforcement of any state statute or administrative rule regarding contracting or procurement would impede any state agency's emergency response that is necessary to protect life or property threatened by this declared disaster, the Governor ordered the suspension of such statutes and rules for the duration of the disaster; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in his February 12, 2021 Disaster Proclamation and pursuant to Section 418.017 of the Government Code, Governor Abbott authorized the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Chapter 418 of the Government Code) authorizes the declaration of a state of disaster if a threat of disaster is imminent; and,

WHEREAS, sections 418.109 and 418.020 of the Government Code authorizes a local government to provide mutual aid assistance in accordance with its policies and procedures and may make arrangements necessary to acquire, prepare, or equip sites for temporary housing; and,

WHEREAS, the Central Texas area and Austin are experiencing extreme cold temperatures not seen in decades which may result in the imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life to residents; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2021, pursuant to his authority in chapter 418 of the Government Code, Mayor Steve Adler issued a declaration of disaster for the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council was scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 18, 2021 and had an item on its agenda to consider continuing Mayor Adler's disaster declaration; and

WHEREAS, the City Council meeting was canceled due to severe utility outages throughout the City and fact that City employees are responding to emergencies nonstop since the start of this emergency on top of dealing with matters related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the extreme cold continues to severely impact City utility services and the roadways will be treacherous until the weather changes therefore necessitating the renewal of the disaster declaration; and

WHEREAS, the City has activated its emergency shelter operations and is open to take in people with inadequate shelter; and

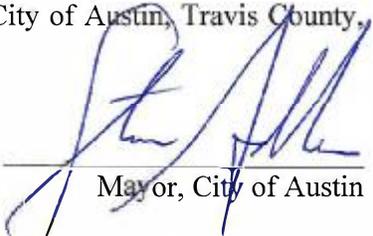
WHEREAS, based on statements and information from Homeland Security and Emergency Management personnel and others it is necessary to issue this disaster declaration in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of our residents and strongly encourage people to stay off the streets and shelter in place or seek shelter in facilities provided by the City, other local entities and non-profits and take all cautionary measures to ensure the safety of all persons and animals in their care, and turn off unnecessary electronic devices in order to conserve energy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

1. That the declaration of local state of disaster issued February 14, 2021 is hereby renewed for the City of Austin, Texas by virtue of the authority vested in me by the City Charter, as the presiding officer of the governing body and under Texas Government Code, Section 418.108.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of local disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration unless continued by the City Council.
3. Pursuant to section 418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Clerk.
4. Pursuant to §418.018(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of assistance activates the City's Emergency Management Plan. All other Charter, statutory, and ordinance powers vested in me and all officers of the City of Austin to act in this local state of disaster are activated. This declaration activates the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plans.

5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, the City may take actions necessary to protect the health of persons in the City.
6. Pursuant to this authority, residents are advised to remain indoors and to bring animals indoors. Austin Energy strongly encourages that if residents lose power in their homes, they should turn off thermostats and appliances, shut off or unplug any fixtures that are connected and leave only one light on to know when the power is back on. Residents are further advised not to travel unless necessary because of unsafe road and travel conditions and to continue monitoring the weather.
7. This declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
8. The City Clerk is directed to give prompt and general publicity of the issuance of this DECLARATION.

DECLARED this the 19th day of February 2021, in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, in witness whereof I subscribe my name.



Mayor, City of Austin

Filed with me, the City Clerk of the City of Austin, this 19th day of February 2021, by Mayor Steve Adler, whose signature I hereby attest under my hand.



City Clerk