

**CITY OF SPOKANE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**EXECUTIVE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY OR DISASTER  
IN THE CITY OF SPOKANE, WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane has been severely affected by extreme winter weather that began on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 has continued to this day, and is forecast to continue for the foreseeable future; and,

WHEREAS, this series of weathers events has involved temperatures sustained in the single digits and remaining well below zero, as well as record snowfall of 19.4 inches in one 24-hour period, and in excess of 39 cumulative inches thus far (to-date the 5<sup>th</sup> largest snowpack of record); and,

WHEREAS, reliable forecasters predict another 7 to 11 or more inches of snowfall expected within the next 24-72 hours); and,

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane has deployed all available City resources, including manpower and equipment, from the City's Streets, Water, and Sewer Departments, and also has contracted with local private contractors to plow and remove snow throughout the City, and these resources are being utilized 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; and,

WHEREAS, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of 24-hour-a-day deployment of all available resources, the City finally almost completed one full plow of the entire City and our approximately 970 miles of streets, as we must continually refocus resources on the snow emergency routes, major arterials and bus routes, and therefore have not been able to circulate citywide to keep all other streets plowed on a regular basis; and,

WHEREAS, with more large amounts of snow on the way, we anticipate we will once again have to focus snow removal efforts on the snow emergency routes, which provide very limited mobility for the community due to the vast majority of streets becoming impassable with accumulated snow; and,

WHEREAS, the City's Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services are completely dependent upon motor vehicle access to citizens in need of emergency assistance, which is currently severely restricted due to snow; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane is the regional hub of hospitals, government and academic buildings, transportation and commerce, which all rely upon accessible street systems which currently are clogged with snow; and,

WHEREAS, the City government is spending approximately \$220,000 per day (\$1.5 million per week) on snow removal, rapidly over-spending the snow removal budget at an alarming rate (total snow removal costs anticipated when the 2008 budget was passed were \$2 million, and with these storm events we are on pace to spend \$4.5 million); and,

WHEREAS, these unanticipated demands are depleting available resources and we anticipate new storms coming will overwhelm our community and leave us unable to sustain the City's response to these record-setting winter snow events; and,

WHEREAS, these winter snow events have severely disrupted the mobility of emergency responders, public transportation providers, and our citizens, and this, in turn, has caused serious disruptions in health, safety and welfare with the City of Spokane; and

WHEREAS, an emergency or disaster exists that necessitates utilization of the emergency powers granted pursuant to RCW 38.53 and/or 35A.33; and

WHEREAS, significant economic loss has occurred or is occurring as a result of shutdowns necessary to respond to falling and accumulated snow and extreme cold temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane is responsible for maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane has authority, pursuant to RCW 35A.33.080, to make expenditures for emergencies “requiring the immediate preservation of order or public health, or for the restoration to a condition of usefulness of any public property which has been damaged or destroyed by accident, or for public relief from calamity....”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane has authority, pursuant to RCW 38.52.100(1), “to make appropriations for the ordinary expenses of [the City] for the payment of expenses of its local organization for emergency management”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane is a party to the regional Amended Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Management Services. That Interlocal Agreement was established pursuant to RCW 39.34 and RCW 38.52.070 to facilitate cooperation between the City of Spokane and the other local governments that are parties to the Agreement in the event of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, state and federal resources are supplemental to local jurisdiction efforts; and

WHEREAS, a local “Proclamation of Emergency” is a preliminary step to requesting a “Proclamation of Emergency” from the Governor and requesting state and federal assistance,

NOW THEREFORE, AS THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SPOKANE WASHINGTON, I DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1 – Purpose and Intent.** As a result of the aforementioned conditions, it is the purpose and intent of this declaration to formally proclaim the existence of a disaster or emergency in the City of Spokane, in order to pre-plan in anticipation of incoming winter storms overwhelming our capacity to respond.

**SECTION 2 – Definitions.**

A. “Disaster” includes (but is not limited to) destructive natural phenomena, public disorder, energy emergency, riot, or other situation causing destruction and distress that affects life, health, property, or the public peace.

B. "Emergency" includes (but is not limited to) destructive natural phenomena, public disorder, energy emergency, riot, or other grave or serious situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly and demands immediate action.

**SECTION 3 – Emergency Proclamation.**

A. It is hereby declared that there is an emergency or disaster as a result of the aforementioned conditions in the City of Spokane, Spokane County, Washington; therefore, designated departments are authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such emergency to protect the health, safety and welfare of persons and property, and provide emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster.

B. Each designated department is authorized to exercise the powers enumerated in this Resolution in light of the demands of an extreme emergency situation without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements).

**SECTION FOUR Effective Date.** This Declaration shall be in full force and effect upon signature.

DATED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008.

Mary B. Verner, Mayor  
Mary B. Verner

ATTEST:

Terri L. Pfister  
Terri L. Pfister, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Howard F. Pelano  
Howard F. Pelano, City Attorney

Date of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

