

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2025-04

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR
EXTENDING THE STATE OF LOCAL
EMERGENCY RELATED TO HURRICANE
HELENE AND HURRICANE MILTON
THROUGH FEBRUARY 4, 2025.**

THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION is hereby made by Kenneth T. Welch, in his capacity as Mayor of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida (the “**City**”):

SECTION 1—FINDINGS: I hereby make the following findings in support of the extension of the state of local emergency effectuated by this order:

- (a) On September 23, 2024, the Governor of the state of Florida issued executive order 24-208 to declare a state of emergency in certain counties, including Pinellas, due to a tropical weather system then designated as “Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine” and ultimately designated as “Hurricane Helene” (“**Helene**”).
- (b) On September 24, 2024, pursuant to Florida Statutes section 252.38(3)(a)5 and City Code section 2-425(c), I issued executive order 2024-01 to declare a state of local emergency within the municipal boundaries of the City due to Helene (as may be extended or expanded from time-to-time, the “**Emergency**”).
- (c) Contemporaneously with that executive order, I issued executive order 2024-02 to establish certain general emergency powers, including the power to waive procedures and formalities otherwise required of the City as needed to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community (“**EO 2024-02**”).
- (d) On October 5, 2024, the Governor of the state of Florida issued executive order 24-214 to declare an additional state of emergency in certain counties, including Pinellas, due to a tropical weather system then designated as “Tropical Storm Milton” and ultimately designated as “Hurricane Milton” (“**Milton**”).
- (e) On October 5, 2024, I issued executive order 2024-04 to extend the Emergency and expand its scope to include Milton.
- (f) On October 21, 2024, I issued executive order 2024-06 (“**EO 2024-06**”), which contained factual findings concerning the countywide state of emergency for Helene and Milton

(each, a “**Storm**”), the federal disaster declaration for each Storm, and the City’s initial assessment of the damage caused by the unprecedented combination of the Storms impacting the City only 13 days apart. Those findings from EO 2024-06 are incorporated by reference into this order.

- (g) A significant amount of Storm-related debris continues to be generated on an ongoing basis, as damage assessment, insurance adjustment, and remediation efforts continue throughout affected areas of the City. Due to the size and nature of that sort of Storm debris, it is frequently placed on the right-of-way for special collection by the City. Accordingly, it is necessary to protect the public interest to continue the City’s ongoing efforts to collect that debris pursuant to authority provided under the Emergency Code.
- (h) Residents of some structures damaged by the Storms remain unable to occupy or use portions of those structures while Storm-related damage is being assessed and remediated. Accordingly, it is necessary to protect the public interest to maintain the Mayor’s authority to waive strict enforcement of any provision of City Code or any provision of a rule, regulation, policy, procedure, or directive of a City department when strict enforcement of that provision would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the Storms.
- (i) Additionally, as residents continue to deal with the impacts of the Storms, it is necessary to protect the public interest to maintain the Mayor’s authority to assist those residents by using existing City resources and procuring additional City resources and by maintaining the Mayor’s authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the City pertaining to the performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
- (j) Accordingly, it is necessary to protect the public interest to extend the Emergency for an additional seven days pursuant to the Florida Statutes and the Emergency Code.
- (k) This proclamation is made in consideration of these findings (including those incorporated by reference from EO 2024-06) and in consultation with applicable City officials and staff. Accordingly, the procedure used to make this declaration is fair under the circumstances.

SECTION 2—EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY: Pursuant to Florida Statutes section 252.38(3)(a)5. and City Code section 2-425(c), I proclaim that the Emergency is hereby extended for an additional seven-day period, to run through February 04, 2025, at noon (unless terminated or extended in accordance with applicable law).

SECTION 3—EMERGENCY ACTIONS CONTINUED: Extension of the Emergency pursuant to this proclamation will continue the emergency actions taken in EO 2024-02, including the invocation of general emergency powers and the prohibition on price-gouging. Extension of

the Emergency pursuant to this proclamation will also continue any waiver of procedures and formalities currently in effect, including the waiver of application and inspection fees for certain types of building permits issued to address damage caused by the Storms.

This proclamation is executed by the Mayor and filed with the City Clerk on the date and time stated below and will have full force and effect of law when filed with the City Clerk.

Sign: Kenneth T. Welch
Kenneth T. Welch, Mayor

Filed with the City Clerk:

Sign: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

(SEAL)