

**CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-04**

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR  
EXTENDING THE STATE OF LOCAL  
EMERGENCY RELATED TO HURRICANE  
IDALIA THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18, 2023.**

**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 declaration of the state of local emergency effectuated by this order:

- (a) On August 26, 2023, the Governor of the state of Florida issued executive order 23-171 to declare a state of emergency due to Hurricane Idalia (the “**Storm**”), in certain portions of the State, including Pinellas County.
- (b) On August 28, 2023, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners adopted resolution 23-68 to declare a state of local emergency for Pinellas County due to the Storm.
- (c) On August 28, 2023, pursuant to Florida Statutes section 252.38(3)(a)5. and City Code section 2-425(c), I issued executive order 2023-01 to declare a state of local emergency within the municipal boundaries of the City due to the Storm, and that state of local emergency remains in effect at this time (as extended from time-to-time, the “**Emergency**”).
- (d) Contemporaneously with the original declaration of the Emergency, I also issued executive order 2023-02 to take a variety of emergency actions authorized by the Florida Statutes and the Emergency Code, including invocation of my authority to remove disaster-generated debris and establishment of a prohibition on price-gouging.
- (e) On August 30, 2023, at approximately 7:45 AM, the center of the Storm made landfall in Florida’s Big Bend region, near Keaton Beach, Florida, with maximum sustained winds of 125 mph, making the Storm a strong Category 3.
- (f) According to preliminary estimates of the Storm’s impact on the City from the National Hurricane Center and other authorities, the City experienced sustained winds of up to 40 mph, with gusts of up to 50 mph. Additionally, the City experienced storm surge of up to 4 feet. This storm surge was particularly damaging to low-lying neighborhoods such as Shore Acres, Riviera Bay, Snell Isle, and Coquina Key.

- (g) The City completed its initial assessment of the affected areas on September 6, 2023. That assessment identified 1,466 properties that sustained damage from the Storm, which can be further broken down as follows:
- (i) 583 homes sustained flood damage to the garage, screen rooms, other non-habitable areas, with a flood depth typically below 12 inches.
  - (ii) 808 homes sustained flood damage to the habitable area of the home, with a flood depth typically below 18 inches that impacts finishes, cabinets, and appliances.
  - (iii) 78 homes sustained flood damage to the habitable area of the home with a flood depth exceeding 18 inches that impacts electric, plumbing, HVAC, finishes, cabinets, appliances, equipment. These homes may not be safe to occupy.
  - (iv) 2 homes sustained significant structural damage or heavy flood damage to the habitable area of the home that impacts all systems and structural components. These homes are not safe to occupy and may be condemned.
- (h) On August 31, 2023, the President of the United States approved a major disaster declaration for certain areas of Florida affected by the Storm (FEMA-4734-DR), and on September 3, 2023, that declaration was amended to include Pinellas County.
- (i) A significant amount of Storm-related debris is being generated on an ongoing basis, as damage assessment, insurance adjustment, and remediation efforts continue in the affected areas of the City. Due to the size and nature of that debris, it is frequently placed on the right-of-way for special collection by the City. Timely removal of that debris by the City is necessary for all of the following reasons: (i) to eliminate immediate threats to life, public health, and safety; (ii) to eliminate immediate threats of significant damage to improved public or private property; and (iii) to promote post-disaster economic recovery of 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.
- (j) Residents of some structures damaged by the Storm remain unable to occupy or use portions of those structures while the 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 Storm, including the housing of residents of Storm-damaged property in safe and sanitary conditions.

- (k) Additionally, as residents continue to deal with the impacts of the Storm, 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.
- (l) 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.
- (m) This proclamation is made in consideration of these findings and in consultation with applicable City officials and staff, including consultation on Friday, September 8, 2023, with senior administrators tasked with resolving the issues described in the findings above. 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 hereby proclaim that the Emergency is extended for an additional seven-day period, to run through 11:00 AM on September 18, 2023, 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 2023-02, including the invocation of general emergency powers and the prohibition on price-gouging.

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: *[Signature]*

Name: Chan Srinivasa

Title: City Clerk

Date: September 8, 2023

Time: 8:44 P.M.

