

EXECUTIVE ORDER JML 25-23

Renewal of State of Emergency New Orleans and Mardi Gras Season

WHEREAS, the Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by emergencies and disasters;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to address disasters resulting from natural or man-made events that cause or threaten loss of life, injury, or property damage, as well as emergencies, which include actual or potential conditions created by such disasters;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B) (1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency or disaster by executive order, which has the force and effect of law;

WHEREAS, a declaration of emergency or disaster activates the state's emergency response and recovery program under the command of the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is responsible for determining the requirements of the state and its political subdivisions for food, clothing, and other necessities and supplies in a designated emergency area;

WHEREAS, R.S. 29:724 authorizes the Governor during a declared state of emergency or disaster to direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state, when he deems such evacuation necessary for the preservation of life, or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery;

WHEREAS, the Governor may prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in connection with evacuation;

WHEREAS, the Governor may make provisions for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing;

WHEREAS, the Governor may regulate ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, control the movement of persons within a certain area, and manage the occupancy of premises therein;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act confers upon the Governor the power to utilize all available resources of the state government and of each political subdivision of the state as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster or emergency;

WHEREAS, the Governor may transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of state departments and agencies or units thereof for the purposes of performing or facilitating emergency services;

WHEREAS, at approximately 3:15 a.m. on January 1, 2025, an individual displaying an ISIS flag from the rear of his pickup truck drove into a crowd of people on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, in a targeted act of terrorism, resulting in a mass casualty incident;

WHEREAS, after hitting the crowd, the individual exited the vehicle and fired upon local law enforcement.

Law enforcement returned fire, and the subject was neutralized and the threat eliminated;

WHEREAS, pursuant to further law enforcement investigative efforts, the perpetrator of this attack was found to have placed an improvised explosive device ("IED") in his vehicle, as well as two IEDs in personal coolers that the attacker transported to and placed in a high-density area of the French Quarter;

WHEREAS, the situation remains under further investigation;

WHEREAS, fourteen innocent people lost their lives in this terrorist attack, and dozens others were injured;

WHEREAS, the terrorist attack caused significant harm to our visitors and residents;

WHEREAS, the City of New Orleans hosted Super Bowl LIX on Sunday, February 9, 2025, at the Caesars Superdome, at a time that coincided with the Mardi Gras season;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security designated both Super Bowl LIX and Mardi Gras 2025 as a Special Event Assessment Rating ("SEAR") Level 1;

WHEREAS, a SEAR Level 1 event is a significant event with national and/or international importance that requires extensive federal interagency support as well as state and local resources to detect and prevent potential weapons of mass destruction and/or chemical weapons; prevent the entry of contraband, such as narcotics, weapons, and explosives into the event; prevent civil disturbances; and prevent terrorism and targeted violence;

WHEREAS, the City of New Orleans is expected to see hundreds of thousands of visitors in the weeks leading up to Mardi Gras;

WHEREAS, extensive coordination and security measures are necessary to secure areas around the events and ensure public safety from the threats associated with these events, including but not limited to threats of terrorism, targeted violence, chemical warfare, civil disturbances, human trafficking, and sexual assault;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to secure high-density areas, including around the interstate, the parade routes, the Central Business District, and the French Quarter;

WHEREAS, it may be necessary to provide emergency temporary housing for those that are homeless and occupying the areas surrounding the Caesars Superdome, and high-density areas including around the interstate, the Downtown Development District, and the French Quarter;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to develop procedures, arrangements, and agreements to identify, acquire, and mobilize all the resources in and of the state in pursuit of preparedness of the State;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to develop and maintain information and liaison with agencies and organizations with local, parish, state, and federal government, private industry, and Non-Governmental Organizations ("NGO") that can furnish assistance in an emergency or disaster;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to build, equip, organize, and maintain the State Emergency Operations Center as a control and coordination facility for state departments and agencies, private industry, and volunteer groups to come to work together;

WHEREAS, R.S. 29:724 authorizes the Governor during a declared state of emergency or disaster to suspend the provisions of any state regulatory statute prescribing procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules

or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provision of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency and disaster is hereby declared to exist as a result of the emergency conditions that currently threaten the lives, safety, and property of the citizens in Louisiana.

Section 2: Pursuant to R.S. 29:724 (B) (3), the designated emergency area is the Parish of Orleans.

Section 3: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness ("GOHSEP") is hereby authorized to activate the State's Emergency Operations Plan as needed and undertake any activity authorized by law that he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

Section 4: The Director of GOHSEP shall take immediate and appropriate action to determine, direct, mobilize, and coordinate State resources as needed.

Section 5: GOHSEP, the Louisiana State Police ("LSP"), and the Louisiana National Guard ("LANG") will coordinate with the necessary entities within the state and federal government to organize and collaborate on security measures and provide tactical support to the City of New Orleans. Consistent with prior years, the City of New Orleans, the Superintendent of Police and Fire, and the New Orleans Police Department, all acting under supervision of the Office of the Mayor, will provide security in and around the parade routes, including but not limited to prescribing routes and controlling ingress and egress. *See also* "Mayoral Proclamation of Emergency Due to Complex Coordinated Attack and Mass Casualty Event," signed on January 1, 2025.

Section 6: In anticipation of significantly high-density crowds in the days leading up to and following Mardi Gras, the need for heightened security measures to ensure public safety, and the safety of residents, and visitors, there is a need to safely control the ingress and egress of vulnerable areas. Louisiana State Police ("LSP") is ordered to institute and enforce an Enhanced Security Zone ("ESZ") perimeter within certain areas of the French Quarter wherein heightened security measures and restrictions shall be enforced to ensure the protection of public safety and public and private property within the ESZ, as follows:

A. LSP shall develop and publish to the public the specific geographic boundaries of an Enhanced Security Zone (ESZ), which shall include the area clearly marked on the map below.



B. Checkpoints shall be set up at each entrance to the ESZ.

C. LSP shall develop and publish to the public a policy setting forth any and all specific standards, guidelines, restrictions, limitations, and other requirements to be enforced within the ESZ. To prevent and deter the introduction of any destructive, explosive materials, coolers or ice chests of any kind are prohibited within the ESZ, and the LSP policy shall include a notice that any bags or containers larger than 4.5" x 6.5" (or about the size of a small clutch bag) are subject to search by law enforcement prior to entering the ESZ. This policy shall also include a notice that any bags or containers left unattended within the ESZ may be subject to search and/or seizure by law enforcement. LSP shall also include a notice that special exceptions will be made for all medically necessary items after proper inspection has been made.

D. LSP shall post public notices at each entrance checkpoint to the ESZ, which shall include notice of the LSP policy on specific restrictions and prohibitions for bags or containers, as well as the potential for law enforcement to search bags or containers as described in the preceding paragraph.

E. This Enhanced Security Zone shall be in effect and enforced from at least Thursday, February 27, 2025, through Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Section 7: Pursuant to R.S. 29:724(D)(1), the Louisiana Procurement Code (R.S. 39:1551, *et seq.*), Louisiana Public Bid Law (R.S. 38:2211, *et seq.*), and their corresponding rules and regulations are hereby suspended for the State Departments and the City of New Orleans, for the purpose of the procurement of any goods or services necessary to respond to this emergency, including emergency contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, and any other emergency amendments to existing contracts.

Section 8: Pursuant to R.S. 29:732, during a declared state of emergency, the prices charged or value received for goods and services sold within the designated emergency area may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the time of the state of emergency, unless the price by the seller is attributable to fluctuations in

applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.

Section 9: Every State department, agency, and office is directed to provide any assistance and support requested by GOHSEP as needed to assist in response to this emergency.

Section 10: This Order is effective Thursday, February 27, 2025, and shall continue in effect until Saturday, March 29, 2025, unless amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded earlier by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 27th day of February 2025.

Jeff Landry
Governor

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State
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