



MAYORAL PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

WHEREAS, Section 33-15-17 (d) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, authorizes the Mayor of a municipality to proclaim the existence of a local emergency as defined in Section 33-15-5 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended; and

WHEREAS, Section 33-15-5 (h) defines an emergency as “any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether natural, technological, or man-made, in war or in peace, which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to loss of property”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson declared an emergency August 25, 2022 due to the threat of excessive rainfall and extreme flooding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson water system which includes the O.B. Curtis Water Plant and the J.H. Fewell Water Plant, has over 71,000 water connections, serving a population of approximately 173,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the City of Jackson entered into a Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Emergency Administrative Order (EAO) which required the City of Jackson (1) to develop and implement a plan to address all monitoring equipment and appurtenant treatment equipment repairs and/or replacements; and (2) to address the dosing processes for disinfection and pH control; (3) to develop and implement a plan to provide alternative drinking water when triggers are met; and (4) to take additional total coliform bacteria samples under prescribed conditions; and

WHEREAS, in February 2021, the City of Jackson experienced a system-wide failure due to extreme water conditions that caused pipes to freeze and lose pressure leaving many areas without water for several weeks; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2021, the City of Jackson entered into a Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) to address concerns identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, based on recommendations from the EPA and the Mississippi Department of Health, the City of Jackson applied to participate in the Mississippi Rural Water Association’s (MsRWA) mutual aid program; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the City of Jackson’s participation in MsRWA, when faced with issues regarding low water pressure in the water distribution system and issues with hiring and retaining maintenance workers, as well as Class A certified Water Plant Operators, the City

of Jackson requested aid from MsRWA and worked with the Orlando Utility Commission (OUC) to obtain necessary personnel to complete necessary repairs and accumulated deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, on the eve of providing essential personnel, the OUC determined due to its own personnel issues, it would be unable to offer aid to the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson continues to explore all avenues to address the staffing levels, deferred maintenance and emergency repairs at both water treatment plants, O.B. Curtis and J.H. Fewell, including adjustments to salaries, maintenance contracts, and other local assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson issued a Boil Water Notice July 29, 2022 based on water samples collected which showed high turbidity levels and the City of Jackson has remained under Boil Water Notice for more than thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, the flooding of the Pearl River due to the August 25, 2022 emergency, created problems with treating water at the O.B. Curtis Water Plant leading to a temporary decrease in the production of water throughout the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, based on numerous unsuccessful attempts to rectify water system issues, local and statewide assistance from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Mississippi Department of Health, is necessary to support the City of Jackson's response and recovery efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 33-15-17 (d) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and in the public interest and for the general welfare of the City of Jackson, do hereby declare a local emergency for the City of Jackson.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Proclamation shall be (1) promptly filed with the City Clerk; (2) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; and (3) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Proclamation of Local Emergency.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that this Proclamation of Local Emergency is effective immediately, until such time as the next regular meeting of the City Council or a special meeting legally called to review and approve or disapprove the need for continuing this local emergency.

WITNESS MY HAND, on this 29 day of August, 2022 at 5:35 am/pm.



**CHOKWE A. LUMUMBA, MAYOR
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
CITY CLERK