

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS, NY, ORANGE COUNTY

DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

A State of Emergency is hereby declared in the Village of Highland Falls, effective as of 12:30 P.M. on Monday, the 18th day of December 2023.

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2023, the Governor of the State of New York declared a State disaster emergency across New York City, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley in response to extreme rainfall; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Highland Falls is located in the Hudson Valley and torrential thunderstorms created flash flooding on July 9, 2023, killing one resident, displacing hundreds of others from their homes and causing an estimated \$36 million dollars in damage to Village infrastructure and water supply; and

WHEREAS, continued heavy rainfall exacerbated the damage to the Village and its residents on December 17, 2023, continuing through December 18, 2023, the Village experienced heavy rainfall, due to another storm system which exacerbated the Village and Residents, including the necessary evacuation of homes.; and

WHEREAS, the Village continues its efforts to recover from the devastating destruction wrought on July 9, 2023, September 29, 2023 and December 17th and 18th 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Joseph E. D'Onofrio, Mayor of the Village of Highland Falls, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York, hereby find, pursuant to Section 24 of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, that a disaster is impending in the Village of Highland Falls and I do hereby declare a disaster emergency for the entire Village of Highland Falls.

FURTHER, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 24 of Article 2-B of the Executive Law to temporarily suspend or modify any statute, local law, ordinance, order, rule, or regulation, or parts thereof, of any agency during a State disaster emergency, if compliance with such statute, local law, ordinance, order, rule, or regulation would prevent, hinder, or delay action necessary to cope with the disaster emergency or if necessary to assist or aid in coping with such disaster, I hereby temporarily suspend or modify the following:

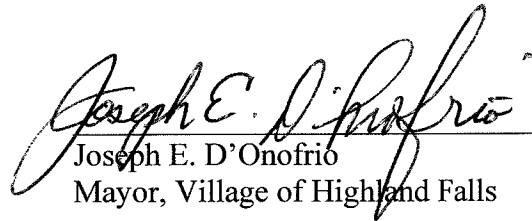
1. The Village of Highland Falls' Procurement Policies and any associated Local Laws are suspended to allow the undersigned or his designee to expand Village funds and resources in the best interest of the Village in connection with the current disaster.

Said suspension(s) shall run from the date of this Order through January 18, 2024, subject to extension by further order. The suspension of the aforesaid policies and Local Laws shall be for the minimum deviation from the requirements of same consistent with the disaster action deemed necessary.

IN ADDITION, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 25(1) of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, which states that “[u]pon the threat or occurrence of a disaster, the chief executive of any political subdivision is hereby authorized and empowered to and shall use any and all facilities, equipment, supplies, personnel and other resources of his political subdivision in such manner as may be necessary or appropriate to cope with the disaster or any emergency resulting therefrom,” and in accordance with any applicable provisions in any of the collective bargaining agreements now in effect between the Village of Highland Falls and its representative employee organizations, I hereby direct all Village Department Heads to arrange, modify, expand or limit the work schedules of their respective departments in such a manner as may be necessary to minimize the risks to Village employees associated with this emergency.

As Chief Executive of the Village of Highland Falls, I, Joseph E. D’Onofrio, exercise the authority vested to me under Section 24 of the New York State Executive Law, to preserve the public safety and hereby render all required and available assistance vital to the security, well-being, and health of the citizens of the Village. I hereby direct all departments and agencies of the Village of Highland Falls to take whatever steps necessary to protect life and property, public infrastructure and provide such emergency assistance as deemed necessary.

SO ORDERED ON DECEMBER 18, 2023


Joseph E. D’Onofrio
Mayor, Village of Highland Falls