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INDEX DEPARTMENT

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IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation

WHEREAS, on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020, after Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin handcuffed George Floyd, an African-American man, and pinned him to the ground with his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes, Mr. Floyd became unresponsive and died; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Floyd's death has led to large public protests that are still continuing in communities across the United States, including Chicago and throughout Illinois, as thousands of people express their pain, fear and rage at the deaths of African Americans, including Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Laquan McDonald and Rekia Boyd, caused by centuries of individual and systemic racism in our country; and,

WHEREAS, these tragic deaths and the protests they have sparked come at the same time as Illinois, along with the entire country, is dealing with the spread of COVID-19, a global pandemic that has caused widespread illness, death and economic devastation, all disproportionately impacting the African-American community; and,

WHEREAS, while thousands of people protested peacefully in communities throughout Illinois, separate groups of individuals have taken aggressive and damaging action as the protests proceeded or following the peaceful conclusions of the protests; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, May 31, 2020, protests occurred in communities in Lake, Peoria, and Stephenson, Counties; and,

WHEREAS, in a number of instances as these protests took place, groups of individuals engaged in destructive and illegal action, including destroying property and looting, and in some instances, the illegal action continued for several hours after the protests had ended; and

WHEREAS, the police departments in a number of communities throughout the State have been and continue to be challenged in their efforts to maintain the peace by protecting the many peaceful protesters and their communities and preventing damage to property; and,

WHEREAS, after rioting in neighboring Scott County, Iowa, resulted in two deaths, local officials in Rock Island County feared that the riots would spill over into their county, and on June 1, 2020, six mayors of Rock Island County municipalities imposed a curfew from 9:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m., each night until further notice; and

WHEREAS, in Carbondale, Illinois, protests on Sunday, May 31, 2020, were followed by incidents of vandalism and theft, and in nearby Paducah, Kentucky, protests on June 1, 2020, were followed by incidents of damage to businesses; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances in Carbondale, Illinois, and Paducah, Kentucky, present a threat of rioting and other civil unrest in southern Illinois, including Williamson County, which is located at the intersection of two major interstate highways, I-24 and I-57; and

WHEREAS, Lake County, Peoria County, and several other local jurisdictions have requested assistance from the State of Illinois to protect residents and to ensure that peaceful protests can continue and that local police departments are able to prevent and, when necessary, respond appropriately to any instances of violence; and,

WHEREAS, protests are expected to continue into the weekend of June 6-7, 2020, in communities throughout the State; and,

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing facts, the current circumstances in communities in Lake, Peoria, Rock Island, Stephenson, and Williamson Counties present a threat of injury or loss of life to numerous individuals seeking to express their outrage in peaceful protest, as well as to bystanders, and present a threat of additional damage to property; and

WHEREAS, these circumstances rise to the level of rioting or the threat of rioting in these areas and constitute a disaster as provided in Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and,

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Illinois that the State will be prepared to address any disasters and, therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional State resources available to ensure that Illinoisans remain safe and secure; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions provide legal justification under Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act for the issuance of a proclamation of disaster; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution, in Article V, Section 8, provides that “the Governor shall have the supreme executive power, and shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws,” and states, in the Preamble, that a central purpose of the Illinois Constitution is “provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people”;

NOW, THEREFORE, in the interest of aiding the people of Illinois and the local governments responsible for ensuring public health, safety, and welfare, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, hereby proclaim as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, I find that a disaster exists within the State of Illinois and specifically **declare Lake, Peoria, Rock Island, Stephenson, and Williamson Counties as disaster areas**. The proclamation authorizes the exercise of all of the emergency powers provided in Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, including but not limited to those specific emergency powers set forth below.

Section 2. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is directed to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan to coordinate State resources to support local governments in disaster response and recovery operations.

Section 3. To aid with emergency purchases necessary for response and other emergency powers as authorized by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, the provisions of the Illinois Procurement Code that would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster are suspended to the extent they are not required by federal law. If necessary, and in accordance with Section 7(1) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7(1), the Governor may take appropriate executive action to suspend additional statutes, orders, rules, and regulations.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 7(3) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7(3), this proclamation activates the Governor’s authority, as necessary, to transfer the direction, personnel or functions of State departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency response programs.

Section 5. All State agencies are directed to cooperate with the Governor, other State agencies and local authorities in the development and implementation of strategies and plans to respond to and recover from the impacts of the present disaster.

Section 6. This proclamation can facilitate requests for federal emergency and/or disaster assistance if a complete and comprehensive assessment of damage indicates that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments.

Section 7. This proclamation shall be effective immediately and remain in effect for 30 days.

In Witness Whereof, I have herewith set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield this 3^d day of June in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty, and of the State of Illinois two hundred and second.

Desse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

BRP

GOVERNOR