

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2-25

**DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR
PLANE CRASH TRAGEDY IN NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA**

WHEREAS, at approximately 6:10 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 2025, a private, international medical airplane traveling from Northeast Philadelphia Airport crashed on Cottman Avenue, in close proximity to Roosevelt Boulevard and the Roosevelt Mall, 2329 Cottman Avenue (hereinafter, the “Plane Crash Tragedy in Northeast Philadelphia”);

WHEREAS, at least seven lives were lost as a result of the crash and resulting explosion and fire;

WHEREAS, at least two dozen people were injured and required medical attention, including, in some cases, critical care hospitalization;

WHEREAS, many homes were significantly impacted, including some that were rendered imminently dangerous or unsafe, which has caused dislocation because of loss of access and utilities;

WHEREAS, the City ordered all businesses and local roads in an area generally bound by Bustleton Avenue, Bleigh Avenue, Gilford Street, Brous Avenue and Saint Vincent Street to be closed from the time of the accident until Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 12 p.m. The investigation has continued in a broader area as well;

WHEREAS, local businesses experienced severe losses of revenue and employees lost income during the closures;

WHEREAS, the City experienced significant damage to City infrastructure in the area of the explosion and fire;

WHEREAS, the City has maintained ongoing efforts to assist individuals and businesses impacted by the tragedy;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has authorized cities to declare a local disaster emergency under Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management (35 Pa. C.S. § 7501);

WHEREAS, Section 10-819 of The Philadelphia Code authorizes the Mayor of Philadelphia to declare a state of emergency upon a finding that an occurrence that “seriously and substantially endanger[s] the health, safety and property of the citizens”;

WHEREAS, the Plane Crash Tragedy in Northeast Philadelphia has seriously endangered the health, safety, property, and welfare of a substantial number of Philadelphians;

WHEREAS, emergency management measures have been required to address the tragedy and to protect the health, safety, property, and welfare of affected residents; and

WHEREAS, it is vital for the City to continue to mobilize and utilize all available resources to address this emergency, including by assisting residents in accessing assistance through any available Commonwealth and Federal programs;

WHEREAS, in partnership with the Philadelphia City Fund, the City has set up the One Philly Fund to directly support victims of disasters that occur in Philadelphia, including the Plane Crash Tragedy in Northeast Philadelphia;

WHEREAS, further partnership across the City will be required to fully restore the residents and businesses of the Northeast, including the assistance of our municipal and trades labor unions, nonprofits who provide vital services, corporate citizens, public charities, and private foundations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHERELLE L. PARKER, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, by the powers vested in me by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter and, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501) and Section 10-819 of The Philadelphia Code, do order as follows:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

I hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in connection with the Plane Crash Tragedy in Northeast Philadelphia.

SECTION 2. Emergency Response.

I direct the Office of the Managing Director and the Office of Emergency Management to continue to coordinate the activities of the emergency response to the tragedy and direct all City departments and agencies to take all appropriate action needed to address the harms to property and persons, including the individual and community trauma caused by the tragedy. Such action shall prioritize the creation of a “one stop shop” within Philly311 to centralize the ongoing provision of assistance to the residents of the area impacted by the crash in receiving essential public services and accessing public assistance and grants for which they may be eligible, take all measures to prevent fraud by providing insured and uninsured homeowners resources on engaging reputable firms, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

SECTION 3. Effective Date.

This order shall take effect immediately.

2-14-25
Date

Cherelle L. Parker
Cherelle L. Parker, Mayor