

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-01

JANUARY 23, 2026

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF WILMINGTON

WHEREAS, Wilm C. § 7-39 authorizes the Mayor to proclaim a state of emergency when he finds an emergency exists that affects life, health, property, or public peace; and

WHEREAS, heavy snowfall, ice, and low temperatures will likely create dangerous driving conditions and circumstances that may threaten life, safety, and health; and

WHEREAS, the weather conditions and impending storm will likely create dangerous conditions and may require additional and further responses from City workers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington must make preparations for the impending storm and determine the appropriate level of caution for public spaces and city roadways; and

WHEREAS, for the foregoing reasons, an emergency exists affecting life, health and safety in the City of Wilmington.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN C. CARNEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, DO HEREBY ORDER, pursuant to the emergency declaration provisions of Chapter 7 of the Wilmington City Code, that a State of Emergency exists in the City of Wilmington in connection with the winter storm and its anticipated effects on Wilmington. In addition to the other powers under Chapter 7 of the Wilmington City Code, I specifically order, direct, and authorize:

1. All non-essential City of Wilmington operations closed on January 26, 2026, and all non-essential employees are excused from work.
2. Pursuant to Wilm C. § 7-40(a)(1), the Mayor, through the City's emergency proclamation, directs that all City parks and public spaces will be off-limits for public access, except for designated shelters and public safety buildings, effective January 24, 2026, at 6:00 pm.
3. Pursuant to Wilm C. § 7-40(a)(1), the Mayor, through the City's emergency proclamation, directs that non-essential persons shall not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway after 1:00 a.m. on January 25, 2026, except for a significant safety, medical or health-related reason. However, to the extent that any driving prohibitions are imposed by a State of Delaware declared State of Emergency that are more restrictive, then the State's driving prohibitions shall apply to the City of Wilmington.
4. Pursuant to Wilm C. § 7-42(1), the Mayor, through the City's emergency management office, may appropriate and expend funds, make contracts, and obtain and distribute equipment, materials and supplies for the purpose of emergency management.

This Executive Order shall become effective immediately upon its execution by the Mayor and shall continue until further proclamation of its termination pursuant to Chapter 7 of Wilmington City Code.

Signed this 23rd day of January, 2026




Mayor

Attest: 
City Clerk