



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, beginning on December 28, 2019 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has experienced multiple earthquakes which culminated in a 6.4 magnitude earthquake and multiple aftershocks on January 7, 2020 near Guanica on the country's Southwestern coast that caused widespread damage and power outages; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of Puerto Rico declared a state of emergency on January 7, 2020 and the commonwealth remains in a state of emergency due to the cumulative and devastating impacts of these unprecedented series of earthquakes; and

**WHEREAS**, the lives and well-being of the citizens of Puerto Rico have been adversely impacted by the earthquakes and massive destruction of property, disruption of basic utilities and other services, and recovery efforts are underway to save lives and provide for basic humanitarian needs in the areas of Puerto Rico impacted by this series of powerful earthquakes; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal, territorial, and local governments and the citizens of Puerto Rico require assistance responding to and recovering from the effects of the earthquakes; and

**WHEREAS**, resources and services of the federal government and mutual aid states are needed to prepare, respond, and recover from the effects of the earthquakes to prevent further damage and to provide much-needed additional personnel and equipment to Puerto Rico; and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio is a party state to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a state-to-state mutual aid agreement adopted in Ohio law at Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.40; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio National Guard, as of the date of this proclamation, has been requested to assist the citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico with the delivery of basic supplies and life support services until basic services in the affected areas are restored across those territories.

**NOW THEREFORE**, as Ohio is committed to providing assistance requested by EMAC member states, as outlined in Ohio law, an emergency exists requiring the deployment of specified members of the Ohio National Guard to respond to the major disaster and the on-going emergency declared by the Governor of Puerto Rico. I hereby order into state active duty those personnel and units of the Ohio National Guard as designated by the Adjutant General, pursuant to Section 5923.21 of the Ohio Revised Code, necessary to execute the laws of this state set forth in Section 5502.40 to provide interstate emergency management assistance resources and

services. I further authorize the deployment of specified members of the Ohio National Guard to respond to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and upon receipt of an EMAC request approved by the Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA). Those units and personnel will act pursuant to the orders issued on my behalf by the Adjutant General, and through him, the commanding officers of the units of the Ohio National Guard to take whatever actions are necessary to assist local authorities in the protection of the lives, safety, health, and property of the citizens of the impacted areas; and

**FURTHER**, the Adjutant General shall provide for all pay, transportation, services, equipment and supplies necessary for the units and personnel of the Ohio National Guard and will request appropriate reimbursement from requesting states or territories as provided in the EMAC Operating Guidelines. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.40, Ohio personnel rendering aid in any requesting state or territory pursuant to this proclamation shall be considered agents of that state or territory for liability and limited immunity purposes; and

**FURTHER**, this proclamation memorializes my prior verbal order that took effect on January 9, 2020, and will remain in full force and effect until the disaster recovery assistance is complete and an emergency no longer exists at such time to be determined by the Executive Director of the Emergency Management Agency, who will coordinate state response efforts and terminate the emergency upon the recommendation of the Adjutant General and the territorial government of Puerto Rico.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name at Columbus, Ohio, on the 16th day of January 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

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Mike DeWine  
Governor, State of Ohio