



Emergency Declaration

Jefferson Apartments Fire

Date: September 11, 2025

Issued by the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh in accordance with applicable law, including City of Pittsburgh Code §113.03 and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. §§7101 *et seq.*, as it pertains to the existing disaster emergency.

WHEREAS, at or around 8:30 am on September 9th, 2025, a massive fire broke out at the Jefferson Apartments on Forward Avenue near the intersection of Murray Avenue within the Squirrel Hill Neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS, although the fire has since been contained, the conflagration resulted in total destruction of the Jefferson Apartments which must now be demolished; and

WHEREAS, the fire disaster has resulted in the permanent displacement and property losses of former Jefferson Apartments residents, as well as disruption to traffic and public infrastructure in the area; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the disaster requires coordinated local government action and access to eligible funding sources in order to alleviate the severe damage, loss, hardship and suffering caused as a result; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh is authorized, in accordance with applicable law, including the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. § 7501, City Code § 113.03(c), to declare a local disaster emergency subject to ratification by the Council of the City of Pittsburgh when the threat or actual occurrence of a disaster is or threatens to be of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate the damage, loss, hardship or suffering threatened or caused thereby; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh has identified fire and destruction of the Jefferson Apartments as a disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor hereby will direct all applicable City personnel to coordinate the necessary activities for this emergency response, to take all appropriate action required to address the disaster emergency, to aid in the maintenance of essential public services, and to take any other lawful emergency response or action deemed necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare in the City.

THEREFORE, the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh makes the following Declaration:

Section 1: Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. 7501 § and the City of Pittsburgh Code, Title One, Administrative, § 113.03(c)(3), and other applicable law, this Declaration of Disaster Emergency is issued by the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh in order to take all necessary actions and precautions to address the fire and destruction of the Jefferson Apartments on Forward Avenue near the intersection of Murray Avenue within the Squirrel Hill Neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh.

Section 2. The Declaration of Disaster Emergency as authorized herein shall not be of a duration in excess of seven (7) days except by or with the consent of the Council of the City of Pittsburgh in accordance with 35 Pa. C.S. § 7501(b) and City Code § 113.03(c)

Section 3. Pursuant to 35 Pa. C.S. § 7501(b), this Declaration shall activate the response, protection, and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local emergency management plans in order to furnish aid and assistance as provided therein.

Section 4. The Mayor and designated personnel shall be permitted to exercise all legal authority permitted by State Statute and City Code in coordination with all City Departments to implement and facilitate the provisions of this Declaration.

Section 5. The Mayor accordingly directs that applicable personnel of City's Department of Public Safety seek out, apply for, and make available, as applicable, eligible funding sources and aid to support the disaster emergency response.

Section 6. In accordance with 35 Pa. C.S. § 7501(b), this declaration or any related order, proclamation or statement shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

Section 7. As provided in 35 Pa. C.S. § 7501(d), the City of Pittsburgh is authorized by this Declaration to exercise the powers provided in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, except for mandatory constitutional requirements, pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

Section 8. In accordance with 35 Pa. C.S. § 7501(c), the City of Pittsburgh is authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to disaster emergency management, response and recovery.

Section 9. Any agreements entered into by the City of Pittsburgh as provided herein shall be approved as to form by the City Solicitor



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Gainey", is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Ed Gainey
City of Pittsburgh