

EXECUTIVE ORDER

2026 - 2

February 26, 2026

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Whereas, the City is embarking upon a once in a generation recovery effort in the wake of the largest snowfall in Providence's recorded history.

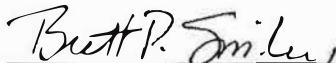
Whereas, the severity of the blizzard has put the City of Providence into a state of emergency that has resulted in a Whole of Government approach and has required the assistance of both mutual aid and specialized vendors, both local and regional. Given the risks to health and safety, along with the potential economic damages from the City's prolonged shutdown, it is necessary to take all steps necessary to procure the equipment and assistance necessary to reopen as soon as possible.

Whereas, the speed of recovery and clean-up is critical to the public safety and wellbeing of Providence's community, it is necessary for the Mayor and his administration to suspend certain rules and regulations to render aid and reopen as quickly as possible.

This Emergency Declaration is issued February 26, 2026, pursuant to the City of Providence Home Rule Charter Section 302(i).

1. The State of Rhode Island issued an emergency declaration (Executive Order 26-02) as a result of the severity and anticipated impacts of the blizzard upon the residents of the State. Said declaration remains in full force and effect as the conditions, and resulting cleanup, from this historic blizzard continue to have a substantial impact on the State and its residents.
2. In addition to the forgoing, to meet the City's continuing public safety and other needs caused by this record breaking and historic blizzard, the Mayor invokes and intends to use all legal means as conferred on him by the Rhode Island General Laws, Home Rule Charter, and Code of Ordinances, including but not limited to Ordinance Section 21-29 regarding emergency purchases.
3. Nothing in this Executive Order shall constrain duties and powers of the City, the Mayor, or PEMA authorized by Title 30, Chapter 15 of the General Laws and the City of Providence's Code of Ordinances §§ 7-1 *et seq.*
4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately, and remain in full force and effect through March 26, 2026, or until a declaration that the need for a state of emergency has abated.

So Ordered:


Brett P. Smiley, Mayor