



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF COVINGTON**

Joseph U. Meyer
Mayor

Covington City Hall
jumeyer@covingtonky.gov

**EXECUTIVE ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A LOCAL
STATE OF EMERGENCY EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 13, 2020
CITY OF COVINGTON, KENTUCKY**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-EO-38

WHEREAS, the Brent Spence Bridge is a double decker, cantilevered truss bridge that carries Interstates 71 and 75 vehicular traffic across the Ohio River between Covington, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on November 11, 2020, a collision occurred at approximately 2:45 a.m. on the northbound or lower deck of the Brent Spence Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the collision involved two “tractor-trailers,” one of which was transporting potassium hydroxide and both of which carrying an unknown amount of diesel fuels; and

WHEREAS, the collision caused a fire that lasted approximately two hours and may have caused damage to the southbound or upper deck of the Brent Spence Bridge; and

WHEREAS, emergency personnel were ordered off of the Brent Spence Bridge until the structural integrity of the of the bridge could be confirmed for the safety of personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Brent Spence Bridge is a vital link across the Ohio River, carrying daily interstate vehicle traffic between Kentucky and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the damage to the Brent Spence Bridge from the collision and resulting fire event has rendered the bridge temporarily unusable and dangerous to the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, this collision and resulting fire event has created a significant disruption of the vital services within this regional area, including medical, educational, utilities, and basic human needs; and

WHEREAS, this collision resulting fire event has adversely impacted the movement of goods and commodities associated with interstate commerce; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that approximately 4% of the country's gross domestic product, or in excess of \$417 billion, crosses over the Brent Spence Bridge each year; and

WHEREAS, the immediate and future impact to the flow of interstate traffic and commerce over the Brent Spence Bridge as a result of the collision and resulting fire event will lead to national economic implications and national emergency support is warranted and necessary.

NOW and therefore, I, Joseph U. Meyer, Mayor of the City of Covington, by virtue of the authority vested in me by KRS Chapter 39A and 39B of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, do hereby declare that a state of emergency exists in the City of Covington in the areas impacted by the recent Brent Spence Bridge collision and resulting fire event, and that I shall be exercising the authority granted to me through Executive Orders, and through utilization of City personnel, services, equipment, and any necessary acts to manage this emergency.

Further, subject to any orders of Governor Andy Beshear, I hereby order and direct any and all departments of the City of Covington to coordinate and cooperate with the Kenton County Emergency Management and any federal agencies to respond to the impact cause by the recent Brent Spence Bridge collision and fire event by exercising the powers articulated in KRS Chapter 39A and 39B and to provide information to individuals, businesses, organizations, and other entities to best respond to the Brent Spence Bridge collision and fire event Emergency Declaration.

Under this State of Emergency, as provided in KRS 39A.100(2), KRS 39B.070 and 45A.380(1), I may waive procedures and formalities otherwise required by the law pertaining to: (a) performance of public work, (b) entering into contracts, (c) incurring obligations, (d) employment of permanent and temporary workers, (e) utilization of volunteer workers, (f) rental of equipment, and (g) appropriation and expenditure of public funds;

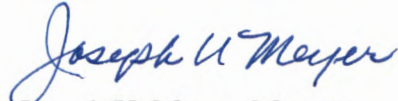
Under this State of Emergency, as provided in KRS 39A.100(2)(c), I may establish curfews and establish their limits; and

Under this State of Emergency, I may exercise any other authority as permitted and articulated in KRS 39A and 39B.

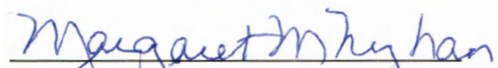
This Declaration of State of Emergency shall remain in effect until terminated by the issuance of another Executive Order when I determine that a state of emergency no longer exists and the exercise of extraordinary measures are no longer required for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 13, 2020 AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL RESCINDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER.

Signed on this the 13th day of November, 2020,


Joseph U. Meyer, Mayor

Attest:


Margaret M. Nyhan, City Clerk

11-13-2020
Date