

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING A LOCAL
EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Fresno Municipal Code Section 2-503 empowers the Mayor to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the Council is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arose within the City on November 23, 2015, due to nearly 1,100 tenants of the Summerset Village apartment complex being without heat and hot water due to a failed natural gas line; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2015, testing was performed on the gas lines at the property and the gas lines failed the testing, being declared unfit for use and a safety hazard, and the estimated repairs to the gas line will take approximately three weeks; and

WHEREAS, the tenants of the property include children and seniors, who are particularly vulnerable to cold temperatures, and some of whom are ill; and

WHEREAS, without natural gas, tenant's stoves and ovens are inoperable and tenants have no hot water to bathe, and it appears many of the tenants are extremely low income and have no financial means of finding other sources of food or housing; and

WHEREAS, tenants' means of coping with the lack of heat and hot water are causing additional dangers such as potential fire and carbon monoxide hazards; and

WHEREAS, communication regarding services, resources, and updates are complicated by multiple languages spoken by the tenants; and

WHEREAS, the City is partnering with other agencies to provide tenants with shower and restroom facilities and meals, and is evaluating and researching potential substitute housing for the tenants, but given the large number of tenants needing assistance, the City is facing substantial challenges in this area; and

WHEREAS, the cost to repair the natural gas lines is estimated to be in excess of \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, the City has demanded the property owner's immediate attention to these matters; and

WHEREAS, this Proclamation is issued in the event the property owner does not begin and complete construction on the necessary repairs to the failed natural gas lines in an urgent manner; and

WHEREAS, these conditions are beyond the control of service, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout the City; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of the local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this City; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this Proclamation be forwarded to the Emergency Services Director of the County of Fresno, the State Director of the Office of Emergency Services, and the Governor of California.

Dated: Nov 25, 2015

By: Ashley Swearengin
Ashley Swearengin, Mayor