

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

2024 - 070

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EMERGENCY RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS WITHIN
THE COMMUNITY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE EXECUTIVE
ORDERS TO INCREASE INDOOR SHELTER CAPACITY**

**Adopted by the City Council
of the City of Bloomington
on September 9, 2024**

Published in pamphlet form by the authority of the City Council of the
City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, on September 11, 2024.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MCLEAN)

CERTIFICATE

I, Leslie Smith-Yocum, certify that I am the duly appointed and qualified municipal clerk of the City of Bloomington, County of McLean, Illinois.

I further certify that on the Corporate Authorities of the above municipality passed and approved Ordinance No. 2024 - 070, entitled, an Ordinance Declaring an Emergency Related to Homelessness Within the Community and Authorizing the City Manager to Issue Executive Orders to Increase Indoor Shelter Capacity, which provided by its terms that it should be published in pamphlet form.

The pamphlet form of this Ordinance, including the Ordinance and cover sheet thereof, was prepared, and a copy of the Ordinance was posted in the municipal building, commencing on September 11, 2024, and continuing for at least ten days thereafter. Copies of the Ordinance were also available for public inspection upon request in the office of the municipal clerk.

Dated at Bloomington, Illinois, on 09/11/2024



Leslie Smith-Yocum
City Clerk



ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 070

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EMERGENCY RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE
EXECUTIVE ORDERS TO INCREASE INDOOR SHELTER CAPACITY**

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington sits in McLean County in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington recognizes that homelessness within the City has reached increased levels, with several individuals living on the street and in tents, creating a public health and safety need that requires immediate and comprehensive action prior to cold winter months; and

WHEREAS, homelessness presents urgent challenges to the well-being of affected individuals and the overall public health, welfare, and safety of Bloomington residents; and

WHEREAS, the community lacks the shelter capacity to provide sufficient shelter to those currently living outdoors within the community; and

WHEREAS, it is safer to provide temporary shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness, even in facilities that may not fully meet building, electrical, fire code, or property maintenance code, than to leave them exposed to freezing winter temperatures, which pose a severe risk of injury, illness, or loss of life; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11a, the Mayor is empowered to declare a local disaster for up to seven days, and the City Council, as the City's governing body, is empowered to extend that emergency disaster declaration for a period in excess of seven days; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council find that it is in the best interest of the City to declare and extend a declaration of local disaster until March 31, 2025, or until otherwise revoked or extended, and to further authorize the City Manager to take all reasonable steps necessary to mitigate the impacts of homelessness within Bloomington, including enacting Executive Orders, for a limited time, to address this public health emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1. The Mayor of the City of Bloomington, County of Mclean, Illinois, pursuant to the authority granted under Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (the "Act"), 20 ILCS 3305/11, proclaims that a disaster and public health emergency exists as a result of the homelessness issues currently facing the community, and the City Council of the City of Bloomington, by virtue of the authority vested in said City Council pursuant the Act, hereby extends that disaster declaration until March 31, 2025, or until otherwise revoked or extended. Accordingly, the City recognizes that immediate and extraordinary action is necessary to address the impacts of homelessness on public health, safety, and welfare.

SECTION 2. During the existence of said state of 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.

SECTION 3. The Mayor and City Council call upon the County of McLean, the State of Illinois, and the federal government to further deem this public health emergency viable and to provide additional resources to assist the City in solving the homelessness issues in Bloomington.

SECTION 4. The City Manager is instructed and empowered to enact Executive Orders to facilitate and assist in addressing this public health crisis to increase indoor shelter capacity, including setting aside specific requirements or sections of the building code, electrical code, fire code, property maintenance code, and related ordinances for a limited amount of time to allow service providers to increase capacity for providing indoor shelter in accordance with the best interests of the City. The Executive Orders issued under the authority granted in this Ordinance shall be in effect for a limited period as determined by the City Manager, not to exceed March 31, 2025, unless extended by the City Council. All actions taken by the City Manager shall be made with the City's best interests in mind and shall be reviewed regularly for their impact and effectiveness.

SECTION 5. The City Clerk is hereby instructed to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form and as otherwise provided by law.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the home rule authority of the City of Bloomington granted by Article VII, Section 6 of the 1970 Illinois Constitution.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after its approval and remain effective up and until March 31, 2025 unless sooner repealed or extended by City Council.


PASSED this 9th day of September 2024.

APPROVED this 11th day of September 2024.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST


Leslie Smith-Yocum, City Clerk

