



Jim Watson
Mayor / Maire

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Declaration of Emergency in the City of Ottawa

WHEREAS on November 19, 2021, the Federal Government announced that effective January 15, 2022, “certain categories of travelers who are currently exempt from entry requirements [regarding COVID-19] will only be allowed to enter [Canada] if they are fully vaccinated”; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government expressly stated that “these groups include several essential service providers including truck drivers”; and

WHEREAS on or about January 15, 2022, a number of truck drivers from Western Canada began a so-called “Freedom Convoy 2022” (the “Convoy”) headed for the City of Ottawa to protest these federal requirements; and

WHEREAS on or about Friday, January 28, 2022, hundreds of vehicles in the Convoy arrived in the City of Ottawa and illegally occupied the downtown core; and

WHEREAS some of those involved in the occupation desecrated the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial by jumping and dancing on it; and

WHEREAS the Terry Fox statue was vandalized by the placement of gas masks, signs and upside down flags representing distress on it; and

WHEREAS on February 2, 2022, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg issued a statement stating that they do not support the occupiers and that the actions taking place on their Traditional Unceded Territory were “unacceptable”; and

WHEREAS on February 3, 2022, the Tungasuvvingat Inuit Ontario issued a statement that the occupation was “negatively impacting those vulnerable members of [their] community” and asked the protestors to leave Ottawa to “allow our vulnerable urban indigenous communities to feel safe again and regain access to cultural programming and essential services”; and

WHEREAS on February 4, 2022, the Métis Nation of Ontario issued a statement to standing with fellow Indigenous nations, agencies and allies in “opposing the divisive and disrespectful tactics that have taken place in and around Ottawa on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Peoples”; and

WHEREAS this occupation poses an ongoing threat to public safety, the well-being of all Ottawa residents as well as the operation of business and services in the downtown core; and



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WHEREAS the peace and safety of residents of the City of Ottawa, particularly in the downtown area, have been severely disrupted, virtually 24 hours a day, including those of children, vulnerable peoples, healthcare workers, long-term care centre workers, emergency workers, and other frontline workers who serve our community; and

WHEREAS this illegal occupation shows no signs of ending; and

WHEREAS in light of the update provided by the Chief of the Ottawa Police Service for the City of Ottawa at a Special Meeting of the Ottawa Police Services Board on February 5, 2022, it is evident that the magnitude of this unprecedented occupation is frustrating the ability of the municipality to provide adequate and effective police services as defined by the *Police Services Act* and that local policing alone will not restore public order and safety to the residents and visitors of the City of Ottawa;

WHEREAS the criteria set out in Subsection 4(1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (the "Act") have been satisfied;

NOW THEREFORE, an emergency is hereby declared pursuant to Subsection 4(1) of the Act in the whole of the City of Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Jim Watson

Mayor of the City of Ottawa

Date: February 6, 2022