



# St. Tammany Parish Government OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

## *Executive Order*

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*St. Tammany Parish Government Contact: 985-898-2700*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT OPERATIONS DUE TO THE PARISH-WIDE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED PURSUANT THE LOUISIANA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER ACT, LA. REV. STAT. 29:721, *ET SEQ.*, AS TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19).**

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. Rev. Stat. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana and parish presidents emergency powers to prepare and cope with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations will be adequate to cope with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana; and

**WHEREAS**, when the Parish President determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. Rev. Stat. 29:727 empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, La. Rev. Stat. 29:727(F) authorizes the Parish President to, among other things, suspend the provision of any regulatory ordinance prescribing the procedures for conduct of local business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any local agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any ordinance, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation No. 25 JBE 2020, which declared a public health emergency to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of the imminent threat posed to Louisiana citizens by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and the Parish President, Michael B. Cooper, on March 13, 2020, declared a parish-wide state of emergency due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of emergency declared by Governor John Bel Edwards and Parish President, Michael B. Cooper has been extended by proclamation and executive order and has remained in effect since March of 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the dangers imposed by the pandemic, Governor John Bel Edwards and Parish President, Michael B. Cooper have issued multiple proclamations and executive orders imposing certain restrictions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana and of St. Tammany Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation No. 32 JBE 2020, suspending certain staffing requirements on ambulances set forth in La. Rev. Stat. 40:1135.1(A)(2)(a) due to concerns that ambulances would be unable to sufficiently respond to those persons affected by the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, this suspension of La. Rev. Stat. 40:1135.1(A)(2)(a) has been extended by Governor John Bel Edwards and remains effective; and



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**WHEREAS**, the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances contains provisions regulating qualifications to operate ambulances and emergency medical transport in the Parish, which mirror those provided in La. Rev. Stat. 40:1135.1(A)(2)(a), and

**WHEREAS**, to effectively meet the dangers presented by the emergency and protect the health and safety of the people of the Parish, it is necessary to suspend certain provisions of the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances to assist in enabling ambulances to sufficiently and efficiently respond to those affected by the emergency.

**IT IS ORDERED** that, pursuant to the authority vested in him through the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. Rev. Stat. 29:721, *et seq.*, specifically La. Rev. Stat. 29:727(F), Michael B. Cooper, as Parish President, orders that Section 8-4(a)(2)(a) of the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances is temporary suspended as to ambulance drivers, provided that such driver possesses a driver's license valid in the State of Louisiana and meets the criminal background check requirements of La. Rev. Stat. 40:1203.1, *et seq.*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, Section 8-5(b)(1) of the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances is temporary suspended as to ambulance and emergency medical transport drivers, provided that such driver possesses a driver's license valid in the State of Louisiana and meets the criminal background check requirements of La. Rev. Stat. 40:1203.1, *et seq.*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, Section 8-5(a) of the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances is temporary suspended as to the requirement that emergency medical transport vehicles must be staffed with a minimum of one licensed emergency medical technician. Section 8-5(a) shall be temporarily revised as follows:

- (a) *Vehicle requirements.* Any vehicle operated as an ambulance or medical transportation vehicle for transportation within the parish on an emergency basis or dispatched through 9-1-1 operations center or called by a private individual shall meet all criteria established for emergency calls. The ambulance or medical transportation vehicle must be staffed with a minimum of two persons, one of whom shall be a licensed emergency medical ~~technician~~ responder.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, when responding to an emergency medical call within the Parish, ambulance and emergency medical transport providers may exercise their best medical judgment to respond to an emergency call with a Basic Life Support ambulance unit rather than an Advanced Life Support ambulance unit when such is authorized by the provider's medical director based on the information provided via the Emergency 911 call or other information provided to the ambulance or emergency medical transport call center.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Executive Order shall remain in effect until terminated by subsequent Executive Proclamation or Order; and



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**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any person or entity who disregards, interrupts or interferes with the control of the Parish and/or Parish President shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

At Covington, Louisiana, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022 at 4:00  
P.m.

  
Michael B. Cooper  
Parish President

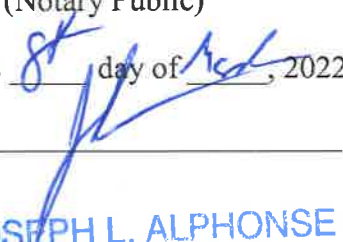
Sworn and subscribed before me,

NOTICE POSTED AT:

St. Tammany Parish web-page: stpgov.org  
and  
21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, La.  
and  
510 E. Boston Street, Covington, La.  
and  
701 N. Columbia Street, Covington, La  
and  
520 Old Spanish Trail, Slidell, La

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(Notary Public)

On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

  
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**JOSEPH L. ALPHONSE**  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF LOUISIANA, PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY  
MY COMMISSION IS ISSUED FOR LIFE  
NOTARIAL # 55903