



KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR

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June 6, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C

Through: Regional Administrator Andrea Spillars
FEMA Region VII
11224 Holmes Road
Kansas City, MO 64131

RE: Request for Emergency Declaration
The Hotel Davenport Apartments Collapse

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C §§5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"), as implemented by 44 C.F.R. §206.35, I request that you issue an Emergency Declaration for the State of Iowa due to the May 28, 2023, major structural building collapse located in Scott County. I submit this request in anticipation of the continued response, rescue, and recovery efforts necessary to save lives and to protect public health and safety.

At approximately 4:56 p.m. on May 28, 2023, The Hotel Davenport Apartments, a six-story, 79-unit, multifamily apartment and business complex located at 324 Main Street in Davenport, Iowa, experienced a major structural building collapse. At the time of this request, this event has resulted in three fatalities and multiple injuries, with search and rescue efforts ongoing. A substantial portion of the building has been destroyed and the remainder of the structure has been rendered uninhabitable. An estimated 100 households have been displaced, from the structure itself, as well as the surrounding area due to safety concerns. In addition, the building collapse displaced three businesses that were housed within the structure and caused the closure of 12 surrounding businesses due to safety concerns. In total, business closures impact an estimated 18 employees. At this time, the cause of the collapse is not known.

On May 29, 2023, I took action and issued a proclamation of disaster emergency pursuant to Iowa Code § 29C.6 for Scott County. This proclamation activated the disaster response and recovery aspects of the Iowa Comprehensive Emergency Plan. This proclamation also authorized the use and deployment of all available State resources, supplies, equipment, and materials as are reasonably necessary to assist citizens located in the disaster-affected counties. Finally, this

proclamation served to launch the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Iowa Disaster Case Management program.

The City of Davenport established local financial aid for families and businesses displaced by the structure collapse. Financial aid includes: \$6,000 per household from the impacted structure, \$1,000 per temporarily displaced household from surrounding structures, \$25,000 per business from the impacted structure and \$12,000 per temporarily displaced business from surrounding structures.

Multiple State agencies were immediately mobilized to respond to this incident, including, but not limited to, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) to include the state fire marshal, and the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), all of which are conducting day-to-day support and mutual aid operations in coordination and cooperation with local officials. HSEMD activated both divisions of the Iowa Urban Search and Rescue Team, deploying approximately 53 members. HSEMD has also coordinated two Emergency Management Assistance Compact missions with Florida and Wisconsin, deploying approximately 13 individuals, and continues to gather resource needs and requests.

HSEMD submitted a joint preliminary damage assessment (JPDA) request to the Small Business Administration on June 2, 2023 and the JPDA commenced on June 5, 2023.

The Scott County Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with the City of Davenport and a Type II incident management team provided through, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, are coordinating the on-scene response activities with local government first responder agencies.

The Salvation Army is assisting with in-kind donation operations and feeding operations at the shelter and for first responders, providing meals four times a day.

HyVee, Inc. is assisting with feeding operations and provided a semi-trailer load of water and Gatorade for first responders.

The American Red Cross established a family reunification center as well as a shelter. The shelter remains operational housing residents. The American Red Cross, along with community and government partners, hosted a multi-agency resource center (MARC) on June 3, 2023, with 28 agencies providing residents access to services and information to aid in the recovery process. Agencies represented include the Iowa Department of Transportation: Motor Vehicle Division to assist with identification documentation and driver's licenses, the Iowa Division of Insurance to provide assistance with insurance questions (renter and personal), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide direct services to veterans impacted by the disaster to include housing, cash benefits and medical assistance, the City of Davenport to provide direct cash/rental assistance, the United States Postal Service to provide held mail and change of address forms, the Community Action of Eastern Iowa to provide assistance with the State Individual Assistance Program and Disaster Case Management, the Salvation Army to provide donations, the American Red Cross to

provide shelter, rental assistance and cash assistance, the Quad Cities Open Network to provide cash vouchers, cell phones and financial literacy assistance, SAL Child Care Connection to provide assistance with childcare services, Humility of Mary to provide housing assistance and relocation assistance, Iowa Legal Aid to provide assistance with insurance, identification documentation, legal assistance and advice, Community Health Care to provide assistance with health services to include medical and dental, Project Now to provide rental assistance and coordination with MidAmerican Energy to pay off residents' utility accounts, Vera French to provide mental health services and trauma counseling, and the River Bend Food Bank to provide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program assistance.

HSEMD has communicated the need for support with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). However, FEMA and the USACE have conveyed that, absent the issuance of a Presidential Declaration, they are unable to render assistance to support the State of Iowa's ongoing response and recovery efforts, and NIST does not believe this collapse will meet their requirements for engagement.

The City of Davenport has exercised its dangerous buildings ordinance/condemnation procedures to take possession of the structure with the intention of demolition to avert the immediate threat to life and property, as the structure is in imminent danger of partial or total collapse. To compound the situation, due to the age of the structure, the presence of asbestos-containing material is likely. The emergency measures required as a result of the severity and destructiveness of this major structural building collapse are beyond the capability of the State of Iowa and affected local governments to perform, or to contract for, thus requiring federal assistance. As such, I am specifically requesting approval of debris removal (Category A) and emergency protective measures (Category B) under the Public Assistance Program and direct federal assistance for Scott County. I believe the costs associated with these categories will be similar to, if not exceed, those incurred on a per capita basis for other similar emergency declarations.

The above mentioned emergency protective measures are estimated at a cost of \$5-6 million. This results in a per capita impact to the State of Iowa of \$1.57-\$1.88, near exceeding or exceeding the statewide per capita impact indicator of \$1.77. This also results in a per capita impact to Scott County of \$28.63-\$34.35, significantly exceeding the countywide per capita impact indicator of \$4.44. This information is provided to demonstrate the severity of damage and loss to the public.

The USACE assistance is requested specifically for demolition debris removal, which may involve the disturbance of asbestos-containing materials. In addition, the NIST technical assistance is requested specifically for the intentional demolition required for the destroyed structure. This assistance is requested to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen and avert the threat of additional damage to surrounding areas.

Contributing to the challenges of responding to this emergency, Iowa continues to recover from multiple, consecutive disasters that warranted and received Major Disaster Declarations, including:

- 2021-DR 4642-IA-11 counties continue to recover from severe storms, straight-line winds, and tornadoes.
- 2020-DR 4557-IA-22 counties, including Scott County and the City of Davenport, continue to recover from severe storms.
- 2019-DR 4421-IA-41 counties, including Scott County and the City of Davenport, continue to recover from severe storms and flooding. Statewide Public Assistance costs are approximately \$247 million, which includes more than \$8 million for Scott County applicants, including the City of Davenport.
- 2018-DR 4392-IA-9 counties continue to recover from a severe storm and tornadoes.
- 2018-DR 4386-IA-31 counties continue to recover from severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding.

In addition to the above major disaster declarations, Scott County and the City of Davenport continue to recover from Spring 2023 flooding in which the county and the State are currently conducting preliminary damage assessments for a potential major disaster declaration request.

In summary, I hereby find that this major structural building collapse is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capability of the State and the affected local governments. I further find that the State requires supplementary federal emergency assistance, as set forth above, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of this disaster.

Also, I certify for this emergency that State and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shared costs as required by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act.

I have designated Dennis Harper, HSEMD Recovery Division administrator, as the state coordinating officer for this emergency. He is authorized to provide any further information, assurances, requests, or justification on my behalf, as well as designate additional deputy state coordinating officers as necessary.

Sincerely,



Kimberly K. Reynolds
Governor

Enclosures:

Disaster Proclamation 2023-19

FEMA Form 010-0-13

Structural Engineer Safety Assessment

Building Condemnation Order

City of Davenport Dangerous Building Ordinance