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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Declaration of Local State of Emergency for Warren's Unhoused Residents During Extreme Cold Weather Conditions

Warren, MI (Jan. 18, 2025) – In response to the dangerously cold weather forecasted for our region, Warren Mayor Lori M. Stone has declared a local State of Emergency to address the immediate needs of Warren's unhoused residents, as well as anyone in need of shelter from the cold. The emergency declaration was made in collaboration with the city's emergency management team and was supported by the Warren City Council during the January 14, 2025, meeting.

Extreme cold poses serious health risks, including frostbite and hypothermia, for vulnerable populations, particularly those who are elderly, disabled, or unhoused. By declaring a local State of Emergency, the City Council has made funding available which allows the administration to expedite actions, enabling quick responses to changing circumstances.

One identified need is to provide a daytime warming center. Many unhoused people turn to public buildings and spaces to escape the dangerous cold weather. However, Warren city buildings are closed on Sundays and will be closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday. Emergency Manager, Lt. Curt Priemer will be mobilizing volunteers from Warren's Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) to staff the Owen Jax Community Center Sunday and Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., providing safe, heated spaces for residents seeking refuge from the cold.

In order to expand the number of overnight shelter beds available, City of Warren worked in collaboration with a local nonprofit, Friend of Father – Macomb to open the doors to another shelter. Warren's newest shelter would offer 24-hour-a-day services for their guests.

Many compassionate residents are concerned for the well-being of the unhoused in our community. They want to know that there are resources available as well as how they can help. There are many opportunities to volunteer time, provide badly needed supplies, or make a financial donation. Warren is working together to create a safer, more inclusive, and resilient community. Through collaboration and proactive measures, we aim to address challenges and improve the quality of life for all residents.

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