

**GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
LA FORTALEZA
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

Administrative Bulletin No: OE-2022-049

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, CREATING A PEACE OFFICERS CORPS TO ASSIST STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WHEREAS: The Government of Puerto Rico is responsible for and is committed to adopting all necessary measures to safeguard public order and to protect lives, safety, and public and private property.

WHEREAS: Article 5.10 of Act No. 20-2017, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Department of Public Safety Act,” empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency on the Island and to “render effective any state regulations, orders, plans, or measures for emergency or disaster situations or modify them at his discretion,” as well as to “prescribe, amend, and revoke any regulations as well as issue, amend, and rescind such orders as deemed convenient.”

WHEREAS: On September 17, 2022, I approved and enacted Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2022-045, whereby I declared a state of emergency due to the impending passing of Tropical Storm Fiona through the Island.

WHEREAS: During its passage through Puerto Rico, Tropical Storm Fiona became a Category 1 hurricane, leaving extensive flooding and significant damage throughout the Island, and causing an island-wide power outage, as well as disrupting other essential services.

WHEREAS: The declared state of emergency includes the areas of public safety, utilities and basic services to citizens, economic activity, and Puerto Rico’s social well-being.

WHEREAS: The safety challenges facing Puerto Rico during this emergency are largely due to the damages caused to road infrastructure, private and commercial property, electric power systems, and other essential services.

WHEREAS: The fragility and the damages caused to the aforementioned structures call for the implementation of additional safety measures to protect the well-being and the property of all Puerto Ricans. Our

law enforcement officers need reinforcements and support from other law enforcement officials in order to effectively address the multiple safety issues.

WHEREAS:

Article 1.02 of Act No. 168-2019, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Weapons Act,” defines a “law enforcement officer” as any member or officer of the Government of Puerto Rico or of the United States of America, as well as of any political subdivision of Puerto Rico or the United States, whose duties include to protect people and property, preserve public order and safety; and make arrests .

WHEREAS:

Article 9 of Act No. 144-2020, known as the “Act to Consolidate the Functions of Law Enforcement Agents in Puerto Rico in the Event of an Emergency or Disaster Declaration,” provides that once an emergency or disaster is declared, the Governor may request assistance from the Federal Government and may also establish a Peace Officers Corps to provide support to state security and law enforcement officers.

THEREFORE:

I, PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, Governor of Puerto Rico, by virtue of the powers inherent to my office and the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the Government of Puerto Rico, hereby declare and order the following:

Section 1:

PEACE OFFICERS CORPS. A Peace Officers Corps shall be created to provide security support and assistance to state law enforcement officers during the emergency declared in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona. This Peace Officers Corps shall be comprised of federal law enforcement officers and law enforcers from any state of the United States of America with legal authority to make arrests in the performance of their duties, until an order to the contrary is issued.

Section 2:

POWERS OF THE PEACE OFFICERS CORPS. Peace Officers shall have full authority and power to make arrests for violations to state laws and shall perform all the duties inherent in their position under the same terms and conditions applicable to state law enforcement agents. The above shall be subject to the provisions of Act No. 20-1993, as amended, known as the “Act to Qualify Federal Officials as Law Enforcement Officers in Puerto Rico.”

Section 3: **POWERS OF THE SECRETARY OF THE PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.** The Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Public Safety is hereby authorized to administer oaths, appoint, and designate Peace Officers, as well as to assign them any support mission as the Secretary may deem necessary, based on the availability of these officers.

Section 4: **NON-CREATION OF ENFORCEABLE RIGHTS.** This Executive Order is not intended to create any rights, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by any person or entity, in any matter, civil, criminal, or administrative, against the Government of Puerto Rico or its agencies, officials, employees, or any other person.

Section 5: **PRIOR ORDERS SUPERSEDED.** This Executive Order repeals any other executive orders that may, in whole or in part, be inconsistent with the provisions herein, to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 6: **SEVERABILITY.** The provisions of this Executive Order are separate and independent of each other, and if any part, section, provision, or sentence of this Executive Order is declared unconstitutional, void, or invalid by a court of jurisdiction and venue, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force.

Section 7: **PUBLICATION.** This Executive Order must be filed immediately with the Department of State and the widest possible publication is hereby ordered.

Section 8: **VALIDITY.** This Executive Order shall enter into force immediately.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereby issue this Executive Order under my signature and cause the Great Seal of the Government of Puerto Rico to be affixed at La Fortaleza, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 21st day of September of 2022.

**PEDRO R. PIERLUISI
GOVERNOR**

CERTIFIED TRANSLATION

Enacted in accordance with the law on this 21st day of September of 2022.



OMAR J. MARRERO DÍAZ
SECRETARY OF STATE