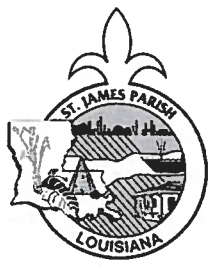


FEB -6 2020

COB \_\_\_\_\_  
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# St. James Parish Government

P. O. Box 106  
Convent, Louisiana 70723-0106  
(225) 562-2260  
FAX (225) 562-2279  
TDD: (225) 562-8500

**Peter A. Dufresne**  
Parish President

## DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, the year 2020 spring flooding and hurricane season presents an imminent threat to the life, health, safety, and property preservation of St. James Parish Residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned potential natural disasters have the ability to cause extensive damage to public and private property; including flash flooding, backwater flooding, and wind damage; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon a recent, in-person inspection by the St. James Parish Operations Department of many of the major drainage channels located in St. James Parish, numerous and severe blockages, vegetation growth, and other impediments preventing the flow of waters in said channels were discovered; and

**WHEREAS**, such imminent dangers require immediate emergency actions to minimize the threat to life and property of the citizens of St. James Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, the identified channels involved are in immediate need of emergency action and support to mitigate potential threats; and

**WHEREAS**, previous Attorney General Opinions issued on this particular matter states that Parishes "not only have the power but the duty to maintain and construct drains, drainage ditches and drainage canals." (La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 79-635); and

**WHEREAS**, St. James Parish Government asserts that said works are intended for the protection of the public-at-large and are not being done for the benefit of any individual landowner; and

**WHEREAS**, St. James Parish Government further asserts that the benefit received by the public is equivalent to the expenditure of the public funds used to complete said work; and

**WHEREAS**, St. James Parish Government is in the process of formally declaring public drainage channels in accordance with La. R.S. 38:311, *et seq.*; and

**WHEREAS**, St. James Parish Government, for the reasons described above, recognizes the immediate need to perform the above-mentioned works prior to the completion of the procedures set forth in La. R.S. 38:311, *et seq.*; and

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**Richard Webre**  
Director of  
Operations

**Felix Boughton**  
Director of  
Finance

**Ingrid Bergeron-LeBlanc**  
Director of  
Human Resources

**Eric Deroche**  
Director of  
Emergency Preparedness

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**WHEREAS**, St. James Parish Government intends to keep documentation, including photographs, evidencing the blockages, vegetation growth, and other impediments preventing the flow of waters in said channels; and

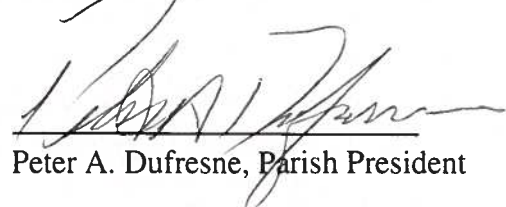
**WHEREAS**, St. James Parish Government recognizes the need for open dialogue and communications with private and corporate land owners in the impacted area; and

**WHEREAS**, St. James Parish Government recognizes the potential of damage to private property due to excavation of said channels; and

**WHEREAS**, St. James Parish Government accepts the responsibility to repair damages and make whole any and all land-owners that may sustain damage from this effort to protect the life, health, safety, and property preservation of St. James Parish Residents;

**THEREFORE**, I, Peter A. Dufresne, President of the Parish of St. James, by the authority vested in me by the Ordinances of St. James Parish, the Louisiana Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, and any other act that may prevail, do hereby proclaim that a state of emergency exists in the Parish of St. James, Louisiana and authorize that public works necessary to remove the blockages, vegetation growth, and other impediments preventing the flow of waters in major drainage channels that serve and benefit the public as a whole be completed under this declaration until such time as St. James Parish Government can complete the procedures set forth in La. R.S. 38:113, *et seq.* The St. James Parish Director of Operations is hereby designated as the point of contact for this action.

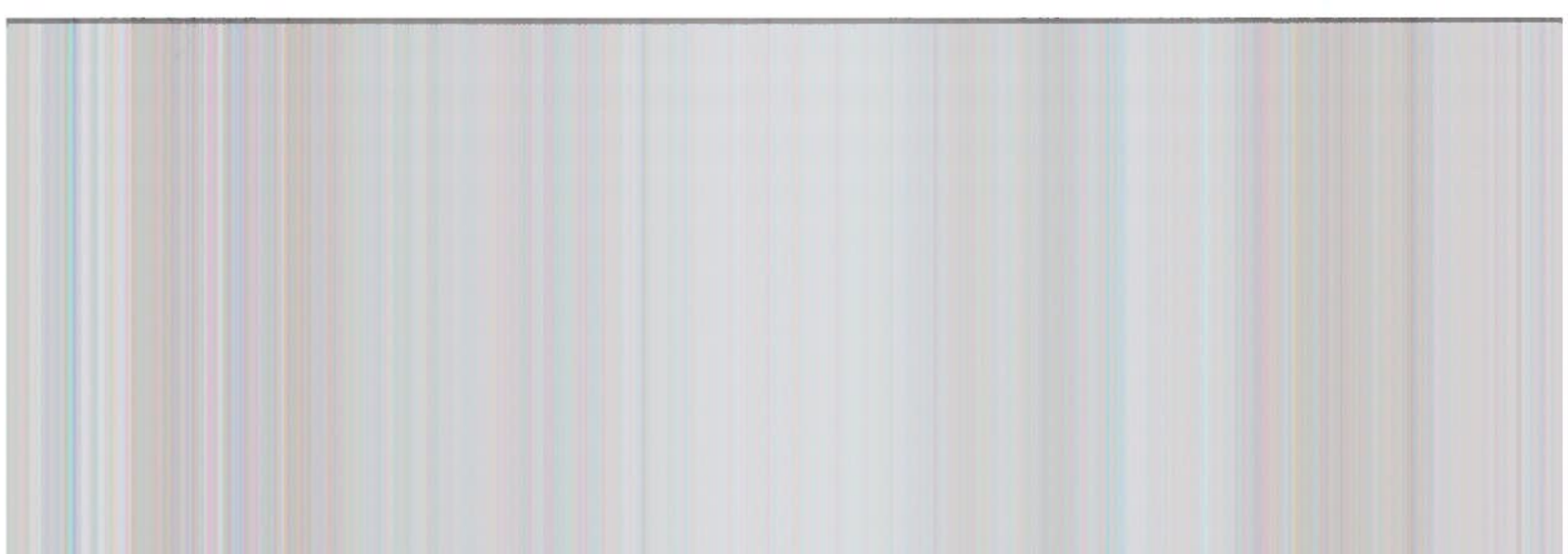
THIS PROCLAMATION WAS ISSUED AT THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES PARISH ON THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2020 AND IS EFFECTIVE AT TIME OF ISSUANCE.

  
Peter A. Dufresne, Parish President

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<b>Richard Webre</b> Director of Operations	<b>Felix Boughton</b> Director of Finance	<b>Ingrid Bergeron-LeBlanc</b> Director of Human Resources	<b>Eric Deroche</b> Director of Emergency Preparedness
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# St. James Parish Recording Page

Shane M. LeBlanc  
Clerk of Court  
PO Box 63  
5800 Highway 44  
Convent, LA 70723  
(225) 562-2270

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ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT  
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**First VENDOR**

PARISH OF ST. JAMES

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ST JAMES PARISH

**Index Type :** CONVEYANCE

**File Number :** 180982

**Type of Document :** DECLARATION

**Book :** 501      **Page :** 625

**Recording Pages :** 3

### Recorded Information

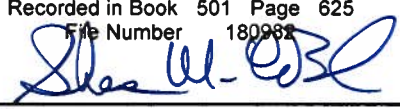
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CLERK OF COURT  
SHANE M. LEBLANC  
Parish of St. James  
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Recorded 02/06/2020 at 12:30:28  
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