



## City of Coatesville

[www.coatesville.org](http://www.coatesville.org)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, January 25, 2009

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The City of Coatesville and its citizens have recently experienced an unprecedented rash of arson fires that have caused an estimated \$3,000,000 in property damage and the death of a beloved elderly resident. Therefore, I, the City Manager, within the powers of my office established in Chapter 19 of the City Code, have requested that the Vice President of City Council, in the absence of the President, to declare a state of emergency. An ordinance regarding this state of emergency has been prepared for ratification by City Council at tomorrow's City Council meeting.

Under a state of emergency the City Manager is empowered to act as follows:

- To direct, coordinate and supervise all personnel and equipment for purposes of emergency management, response and recovery. I will also promulgate whatever special rules and regulations necessary to protect the citizens of Coatesville from arson fires.
- To request assistance from outside municipalities under approved mutual aid agreements and higher jurisdiction authorities as necessary such as county, state and federal agencies.
- To enter into contracts, employ temporary personnel, rent equipment, purchase supplies without regard to the normal procedures and formalities prescribed by law.

Our Emergency Response Team has convened and consists of the President of City Council, the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, the Fire Chief, the Police Chief, the Public Works Director and the Emergency Management Coordinator. The Team will be establishing alternate sites for coordination disaster recovery operations.

The residents of the burned out buildings in the 300 block of Fleetwood Street have been housed at an area Holiday Inn. We are working on longer term plans for food and lodging and will be announcing those plans soon.