FRANKFORT – FRANKLIN COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
300 WEST SECOND STREET • SUITE 3 • FRANKFORT, KY 40601

Frankfort and Franklin County Officials Declare Local State of Emergency

February 17, 2015 – The City of Frankfort

Frankfort Mayor William I. May, Jr. along with Franklin County Judge Executive Huston Wells declared a Local State of Emergency Monday, February 16. Along with the declaration Mayor May and Judge Wells issued Executive Orders restricting travel in the City of Frankfort and Franklin County to Emergency/Roadway Maintenance Vehicles, those reporting to and from their place of work and those with necessary needs of travel.

Although travel restrictions will be lifted at 5:30 p.m. February 17, the Local State of Emergency will stay in effect until further notice. Frankfort-Franklin County Emergency Management Director Tommy Russell is predicting the State of Emergency will remain in effect for several days. "Our Public Works Department has done a great job with the roads. Although travel is still a concern, the bigger concern is falling temperatures. With wind chills well below zero, conditions will be very dangerous," he said.

Under the Declaration of a Local State of Emergency states that the City and County shall coordinate all agencies of local government to provide assistance as may be required in this emergency. Director Russell also commented that under the declaration any official information from the City or County should come from the Office of Emergency Management, the Mayor's Office or the Judge's Office.

Mayor May said he appreciates City employees assisting the public in this emergency situation. "All the City employees pitched in and helped where they were needed from clearing roads to making medicine runs for citizens

to answering phone calls from our citizens," he said. "I also want to say a special 'thank you' to our citizens for cooperating with the City and County. Their cooperation makes our job easier."

Judge Wells echoed the Mayor's sentiments regarding both County Road Crews and the citizens of Franklin County. "I cannot say enough about the outstanding work of our Franklin County employees. From our safety personnel to ur road crews, everyone pitched in to make sure all citizens in need were taken care of," he said. "Our road crew spent many hours scraping and salting road for safety and travel." The Judge also gave credit to the County's Facebook page for reaching many citizens with updates on weather situations and road closures.

As Director Russell indicated, during the next several days Frankfort and Central Kentucky will be dealing with temperatures well below normal, sometimes far below zero. To assist citizens who may not have a warm place to stay there is currently one warming center open to the public located at the City Public Safety Building (300 West Second Street). Two additional warming centers at the Frankfort/Franklin County Civic Center (Capital Plaza) and Capital City Christian Church (15 Locust Lane) will be opened as the need arises during daytime hours. "The hours may be extended depending on the need," Director Russell said.

According to the National Weather Service during the next several days there will be record low temperatures for our area. Director Russell offered some advice to citizens during these dangerous conditions. "Outdoor animals should be brought indoors and if you must be outside please dress in layers and try to cover all exposed skin. Limit time outside to not more than 25 minutes. If you don't have to travel or go outside please don't," he said.

For more detailed information on navigating extreme cold weather please see the Frankfort City Website at Frankfort.ky.gov and follow the links to Ready.gov.

For more information contact the Frankfort-Franklin County Office of Emergency Management at 502/352-2065.