



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

LaToya Cantrell  
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 5, 2020



Timothy McConnell  
Superintendent

**ORDER TO DEMOLISH STRUCTURES ADJACENT TO THE COLLAPSED BUILDING AT  
1031 CANAL STREET**

On October 12, 2019, the New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD) responded to a collapse of the eighteen-story building located at 1031 Canal Street, which was under construction. The catastrophic failure of the structure resulted in the deaths of three construction workers, injuries to several additional construction workers, and extensive damage to public and private property. In response, Mayor Cantrell filed a Mayoral Proclamation and Declaration of a State of Emergency, which remains in effect. Engineers' inspections of the premises have shown the remaining structure to be unsafe and a clear threat to human life and public safety, and it must be demolished in full. Should a major storm strike the City during the upcoming hurricane season, the risk of further collapse of the unsafe and unstable structure would be greatly exacerbated, so this threat to human life and public safety must be abated immediately.

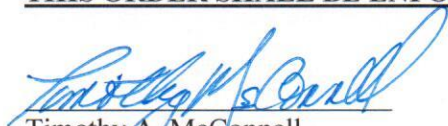
According to the engineers who have analyzed potential demolition scenarios, the height, geometry, and condition of the remaining structure at 1031 Canal render a safe demolition from only Canal Street and Rampart Street unviable, due to the reality that the upper steel structure could fall to the south or that an uncontrolled progressive collapse could occur, endangering the historic structures beyond the buildings that are immediately adjacent to 1031 Canal. Additionally, the proximity of the nearby historic structures, narrowness of Iberville St., and distance of the collapsed building from Burgundy St. require precise positioning of demolition cranes within the footprint of the four adjacent structures if the collapsed building is to be safely demolished. Therefore, the four structures immediately adjacent to 1031 Canal must be removed to allow for a safe, controlled demolition of the remaining structure at 1031 Canal, which represents a continuous and significant risk to life and public safety and an ongoing emergency in the City of New Orleans. Utilizing the emergency authority of the Superintendent of Fire, I hereby order the immediate demolition of the four structures located immediately adjacent to 1031 Canal Street, which bear the municipal addresses of 1022 Iberville Street and 1027, 1025, and 1019 Canal Street. This action is necessary to facilitate the safe demolition of 1031 Canal, lessen the threat to human life and public safety, and begin to further mitigate this emergency situation.

This order is hereby issued according to the powers granted to me as the Superintendent of Fire by Section 4-602 of The Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans.

**Section 4-602. - Police and Emergency Authority.**

The Superintendent of Fire or the Superintendent's representative shall have the powers of a police officer while going to or attending any fire or alarm of fire. The Superintendent or acting Superintendent shall have the authority in an emergency to cause to be demolished any structure when such demolition is essential to the extinguishment or control of fire or other emergency situation in the judgment of the Superintendent or Acting Superintendent.

**THIS ORDER SHALL BE ENFORCED IMMEDIATELY**

  
Timothy A. McConnell  
Superintendent of Fire  
New Orleans Fire Department

May 5, 2020  
DATE

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