

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 872**

### **Homeland Security Council**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi recognizes the critical importance of a unified national strategy for Homeland Security; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi also recognizes the need to coincide its strategy with the unified national strategy for Homeland Security; and

**WHEREAS**, Homeland Security strategies require the coordinated effort of all state agencies, municipalities, counties, and other government, private and volunteer organizations who are committed to plan for and respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction incidents; and

**WHEREAS**, a need exists to expand the scope of the Terrorism Policy Group, created by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in 1999, and formalize such a group as the Homeland Security Council responsible for all State efforts that support the National Homeland Security Strategy;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby create and establish the Homeland Security Council for the State of Mississippi.

**Section 1.** Homeland Security Council (the "Council") shall be responsible for advising and assisting the Governor with respect to all aspects of homeland security. The Council shall serve as the mechanism for ensuring coordination of homeland security-related activities of executive departments and agencies and effective development and implementation of a State Strategy for homeland security.

**Section 2.** The Council shall have as its members: The Governor; The Executive Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency; The Attorney General of Mississippi; The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; The State Health Officer, Mississippi State Department of Health; The Commissioner of Insurance; The Commissioner of Public Safety; The Adjutant General, Mississippi Military Department; The Executive Director of Information Technology Services; The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation; The Executive Director of Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services; The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce; The State Veterinarian, Board of Animal Health; The Executive Director of Mississippi Developmental Authority; The heads of other Federal, State, and local departmental agencies and other senior officials shall be invited to attend council meetings when appropriate.

**Section 3.** The Council shall meet at the Governor's direction. When the Governor is absent from a meeting of the Council, the Director of Homeland Security may preside. The Office of Homeland Security shall be responsible, at the Director of Homeland Security's direction, for determining the agenda, ensuring that necessary papers are prepared, and recording Council actions and decisions.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

**DONE** at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand and three, and of the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

**RONNIE MUSGROVE**