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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Storm Response Update August 18, 2020

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – August 18, 2020 – The City of Cedar Rapids continues to make progress under challenging circumstances, working with the state, county, and local social service agencies to help organize resources, consolidate services, and identify volunteer and donation needs.

Building Permits

All contractors doing work locally are required to be licensed and registered through the State of Iowa. If they are licensed in another state, they still need to be licensed in Iowa to do work in Iowa. To aid residents in finding a reputable contractor, the Building Services Department has created a phone line residents can call if you'd like us to verify a contractor is licensed. This is a verification service, not a referral service. To verify your contractor is licensed, please call the Building Services Department at 319-286-5929, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Iowa contractors are licensed through the state, they are not licensed locally. This is a benefit, as the damage is regional, and contractors licensed through the state are able to serve in any community in Iowa. The City is doing everything possible to expedite these permits so residents and their contractor can begin repairs immediately.

Regarding demolitions: For safety, proper utility disconnections must be verified prior to demolition, which is part of the permit process. For any questions related to the permit process, please contact Building Services at 319-286-5831.

Curfew Update

Starting today, the curfew will be shortened and will be in effect between midnight and 6:00 a.m. As power is restored in several locations, we want to ensure businesses can remain open to provide food and supplies to residents. Residents can travel to and from their employment during the curfew.

Solid Waste Update

The Solid Waste and Recycling Division will begin collecting recycling containers again starting next Monday. To accommodate excess recycling, customers can place any recycling items that do not fit in their CURBY cart in a large cardboard box. The crews will collect the box and its contents for free along with other recycling on their regular collection day. We expect to resume

collection of the green yard waste – or YARDY – carts starting the week of August 31. We are also working our way through the removal of non-tree-related storm debris and materials damaged in the storm. We expect to start collecting these items next week. Using contractor assistance, crews will likely follow the snow prioritization routes and move their way through neighborhoods systematically. Crews will return in multiple waves until neighborhoods have been cleared of debris. As a reminder, we are asking residents to place storm debris at the curb in separate piles from tree debris.

Tree Debris Update

Crews continue to clear debris from streets and neighborhoods. On Monday, August 17, crews collected over 2,000 truckloads of debris, bringing our total to 7,584 loads. This is approximately 34 million pounds of debris already hauled out of neighborhoods. More than 60 percent of roads are ready for hauling, which means the debris has been cleared and pushed off the street surface and is ready for pickup at the curb. Crews are actively working on over 30 percent of our routes, either prepping for haul, or actively hauling. Residents can help give our trucks room by avoiding parking on the street if at all possible. If you need to park on the street, we are asking residents to voluntarily follow our odd/even rule typically used during residential snow emergencies. Starting tomorrow, park on the odd-address side of the street on odd calendar days, and park on the even-address side of the street on even calendar days.

Traffic Signals and Signs Update

The majority of our signalized intersections are now operational. We have re-energized 126 of our 191 signals. Corridors back online include: Blairs Ferry, Collins Road, Wright Brothers Boulevard, and Mt. Vernon Road. We expect all remaining signals to be operational by the end of the week. Our sign crews continue to reinstall stop signs and other safety related regulatory signs. They have completed this process on over half of our 64 emergency snow routes, including the downtown area.

Neighborhood Resource Center Update

The Neighborhood Resource Center, previously located at the ROC Center, 1202 10th Street SE, has been moved to Metro High School, 1212 7th Street SE. The site was relocated due to heavy congestion in the ROC Center area which created concerns about resident safety. All of the Neighborhood Resource Center services for the ROC site are now available at the Metro High School parking lot. Updated information will be posted daily at the five Neighborhood Resource Centers. The updates will be translated into French, Spanish, Swahili and Kirundi. The translated updates will be available at the sites a day after the English version to allow time for translation. As the needs of our community change, our services will continue to adapt.

Updated list of Neighborhood Resource Centers:

- Ladd Library, 3750 Williams Blvd SW
- Northwest Recreation Center parking lot, 1340 11th St NW
- St. Paul's Methodist Church, 1340 3rd Ave SE
- Taylor Elementary School, 720 7th Ave SW
- Metro High School, 1212 7th St SE

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