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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Storm Response Update August 19, 2020

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – August 19, 2020 – The City of Cedar Rapids continues to work with the state, county, and local social service agencies to help organize resources, consolidate services, and identify volunteer and donation needs following the devastating storm that occurred on August 10, 2020.

Tree Debris Update
On Tuesday, August 18, City, DOT, contractor, and National Guard crews collected more than 2,200 truckloads of debris, bringing our total to 9,791 truckloads, or approximately 21,800 tons. As of this afternoon, we have completed a first pass on approximately 12 percent of our roadways. We have approximately 58 percent of our roads prepped for hauling, meaning that tree debris has been moved off the surface of the road and ready for pickup. Approximately 30 percent of our roads are in progress, either clearing debris off roads or working with Alliant Energy to remove power lines. Crews from Public Works, Forestry, and Parks are working from dawn until dusk to clear roads and haul debris.

Residents can find a map of progress on the City's website, cedar-rapids.org. This map will be updated daily to help give residents a general idea of the status of their neighborhood. We have also asked residents to remove cars parked on the side of the road, or to voluntarily follow the odd/even parking rule if they must park on the street. Park on the odd-address side of the street on odd calendar days; park on the even-address side of the street on even calendar days. This voluntary measure applies only to residential streets where alternate side parking would not conflict with normal parking restrictions.

Residents are encouraged to do a thorough examination of trees on their property. Look up into the tree canopy for broken or dead limbs and check for signs that indicate a tree may be in distress. Not all tree services have certified arborists on staff who can assess the structural integrity of trees and determine if they will recover. Information on how to find a certified arborist is available on the forestry pages of the City's website: http://www.cedar-rapids.org/residents/parks_and_recreation/finding_a_certified_arborist.php. Right-of-way, City trees will be assessed over the next several months to determine if they will survive long term.

Traffic Signals and Signs Update
The Public Works Department has re-energized 151 of the City's 191 signals, including the corridors on Wiley Boulevard, Center Point Road, and Boyson Road. We remain on track to get all remaining traffic signals online by the end of the week. Sign crews continue to replace critical roadway signage throughout the community. More than 1,000 stop signs have been replaced or repaired since the storm.

Building Permits and Online Resources
As residents begin to make home repairs, below are tips on finding a reputable contractor:

- Contractors should be licensed in the State of Iowa
- If they are licensed in another state, they still need to be licensed in Iowa to do work locally
- Contractors should carry insurance
- If possible, get more than one quote for repairs
- Do not pay upfront for repairs
- Contact your insurance company for information regarding damage claims
- Check Iowa Courts Online to see if a contractor has been sued by unsatisfied customers

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. Residents can also find resources on permits and how to find a reputable contractor on the City's website: https://cms.revize.com/revize/cedarrapids/local_government/departments_a_-_f/building_services/here.php

Public Safety Update
Use caution when dealing with out of state contractors. In Iowa, residents can report scammers to the Consumer Division of the Iowa Attorney General's Office at 1-888-777-4590. Residents can also file a complaint through the Iowa Attorney General's Office website: iowattorneygeneral.gov.

From 12:30 p.m. on August 10, when the storm started to impact Cedar Rapids, through August 18, the Cedar Rapids Police Department has logged 240 traffic accidents since the storm hit Cedar Rapids, and have responded to 4,603 calls for service. Motorists should continue to be vigilant and drive slowly through neighborhoods, especially where there are large piles of debris. While there have not been any major incidents, residents are urged to continue to exercise caution, and to watch for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Solid Waste Update
Solid Waste and Recycling crews have removed significant amounts of spoiled food from residents' freezers, refrigerators, and streets, providing an important public health service during this time. As of Monday, garbage crews had tipped 1,070 tons of regular weekly customer garbage at the landfill in the last week. That is compared to approximately 450 tons for the same range of dates last year, or almost 2.5 times more garbage than typical. Our partners at the Cedar Rapids-Linn County Solid Waste Agency accepted approximately 2,950 tons on August 18, up

from an average of about 600 tons per day in Linn County, or a more recent average of 1,000 tons per day following the spring hail storm. As a reminder, recycling collection will start again next week, and yard waste will be collected again starting the week of Monday, August 31. We continue to collect carts from the street and not the alley at this time. Customers are always welcome to use our extra recycling program. Place any recycling items that don't fit into your cart in a cardboard box no larger than 2 ft by 3 ft by 2 ft. On collection day, crews will take the cardboard box and any recycling items inside.

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