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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Storm Response Update August 21, 2020

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – August 21, 2020 – The City of Cedar Rapids continues to work with state and county officials, as well as 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. A full list of resources, City updates, informational flyers, and other information can be found on the City’s website: www.cedar-rapids.org.

Cooling Station

With the hot weather predicted this weekend, a cooling station has been established at the US Cellular Center. The site will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Additional days will be added if needed. This location also doubles as a no-cost cell phone charging and Wi-Fi station. We encourage residents, especially those still without power, to utilize this cooling space for your health and safety.

Tree Debris Update

Crews from Public Works, Parks, and Forestry continue to work every day to move debris to the side of the road and haul material, and are joined by our contractors, DOT crews, and National Guard members. On Thursday, August 20, crews collected approximately 2,700 truckloads of debris, bringing our total to 12,306 truckloads. This equates to approximately 27,400 tons of debris that will be mulched down. A map of progress can be found on the City’s website, cedar-rapids.org. Regarding debris in alleys: we ask residents not to haul debris into the alley for pickup. We will clear a path into alleys to ensure our Solid Waste and Recycling vehicles can access collection bins, but we will not be hauling debris left at the edge of alleys. We are picking up tree and storm debris curbside.

Traffic Signals and Signs Update

Traffic Engineering has re-energized 174 of our 191 signals. We anticipate signal restoration by end of day Saturday for any signals where power has been restored by Alliant Energy. We already have some of our pedestrian signals re-energized, and we will continue to focus on this next week. Sign crews continue to work on replacing or repairing critical signage such as stop signs, yield signs, and one-way signs. The majority of stop signs have been repaired or replaced, and we

continue to install new signage as debris is moved away from intersections and room is created in the right of way.

Reminder on Solid Waste and Recycling

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.

Building Permits and Online Resources

Residents can find information on the permit process and a list of where to find reputable contractors on the City's website: www.cedar-rapids.org/homerepair. 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.

Text Alerts

Subscribers to CR News Now text and email alerts started receiving critical messages from the City within hours of the storm. More than 1 million messages have been delivered to more than 45 thousand users since the storm through the CR News Now service. Sign up for email and text alerts at www.CRNewsNow.com.

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