



## STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

### WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

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*Cedar Rapids is a vibrant urban hometown – a beacon for people and businesses that are invested in building a greater community for the next generation.*

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#### **CITY MANAGER**

- ✓ The architectural/engineering firm, CDM, has been hired to assess and develop recovery plans for each of the more than 300 flood-impacted City facilities. This assessment will not be complete before next month. CDM is currently in the very detailed stages of this phase, which will lead to project worksheets submitted by Adjusters International to FEMA.  
Once the Sasaki/JLG master planning process is completed in mid-October and CDM and Howard R. Green have completed damage assessments on the major facilities (tentatively scheduled in October on key buildings like Police, Fire, GTC, Public Works and City Hall), CDM is expected to take the master plan and damage information/cost data and proceed with the building options analysis. This will include a timeline and estimated priorities based on cash flow estimates from FEMA.  
The City is pushing the schedule aggressively. The broad analysis on co-location of services is being done by Sasaki now with input from other governmental entities. Please be patient with us as we work through this complicated recovery process.
- ✓ The City Manager's office will be assessing the customer satisfaction cards that were started early 2008. The process was disrupted during the flood however the cards will be utilized again for all departments including internal service departments ie, Human Resources, Fleet Services, Facility Maintenance and Finance. If you have requested service or information from one of these departments and wish to provide feedback to them, the survey is available on the City Manager page of the intranet at <http://cr-intranet/citynet/content.asp?contentid=1641>. The cards are intended to show improved services throughout the organization.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- ✓ The consultant team of Sasaki-JLG will meet with City Council on Wednesday, September 24 to continue the discussion of flood management options. In addition, the consultant team will begin meeting with representatives from the major medical facilities to discuss the medical district component of the draft River Corridor Redevelopment Framework.
- ✓ CD staff participated in a conference call with FEMA's ESF #14 representatives. ESF #14 is a FEMA initiative to provide long-term community recovery assistance through multiple federal offices. The discussion focused on identifying resources to perform an audit of City policies and organize a green building workshop. Currently, there are no federal funds to assist in implementing either item, but technical assistance is available. Staff will continue to research ways of implementing these two items.
- ✓ The Infill and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Committees have returned to their active meeting schedule. They have begun contacting cities that utilize innovative tools and programs to address these issues. The Committees will focus their discussions on the benefits and challenges of each practice. In addition, two focus groups will be conducted on October 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss quality of life issues in Cedar Rapids including but not limited to: building design quality, transportation, environmental protection, and infill development. The Committees will meet with the City Planning Commission in early November to discuss their findings and possible recommendations.

- ✓ The Replacement Housing Task Force has been meeting twice a week since its establishment on August 27<sup>th</sup>. In four weeks, the task force has recommended City Council approval of 122 new dwelling units. Of those homes, 111 will be rental units of varying sizes. Ninety-seven of these rental units (approximately 87%) will be affordable units. The units will receive approximately \$12,557 in financial assistance, on average, from the City. This financial assistance constitutes approximately 12% of the total cost to construct the replacement housing units.
- ✓ Another Lean Kaizen Event is taking place this week to discuss the residential building and certificate of occupancy permit processes. The event will be held in the Jackson Park Conference Room of the Alliant Energy Office Building. A future event, possibly mid-November, will be held to review the commercial building permit and certificate of occupancy permit processes.
- ✓ At the September 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, a question was raised regarding the Preliminary Plat Smart Growth Scorecard as it relates to the Transportation Criteria and Measurements. The question was specific to the score given an approved preliminary plat. City staff has identified the specific project and will review the scorecard to re-assess the scoring. City staff will report back to City Council once the evaluation is complete.
- ✓ The city will issue a notice of intent to apply for Vision Iowa funds. Staff will work closely with the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) staff to proceed with the application process.
- ✓ **Code Enforcement Division** - Staff continues to confirm contractor certification with the City when in the flood-affected area. As of Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1,023 companies and 6,752 contractors had gone through the certification process. The list of certified companies is available at [www.corridorrecovery.org](http://www.corridorrecovery.org). The Contractor Certification Center is located in the lower level of Westdale Mall, near Younkers. Hours of operation are 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The Contractor Certification Center can be reached at 286-5160. Since the flood, staff has issued 1,177 residential building permits within the flood-affected area. Generally, this represents one permit per property, though not in all cases. Approximately 5,571 residential parcels were impacted by the flood event.
- ✓ **Housing Services** - Staff attended the National Healthy Homes kick-off conference in Baltimore September 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 1,400 health and housing professionals attended the national conference representing city, state, and federal agencies. Speakers included several senators and congressmen as well as administrators from several federal agencies, including the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Jon Gant. It's evident from the conference that national leaders are gearing housing professionals for the transition to healthy housing approaches. This shift will affect how inspections in our housing rehabilitation programs are conducted. The new approach for housing rehabilitation will not only include code and structural issues, but will consider the home environment and its impact to the health of its occupants as well. Staff will continue to utilize this more holistic approach over the coming weeks and months to assist flood-affected victims in their rebuilding efforts. Any questions regarding Healthy Homes programs can be directed to Tricia Arnold, Lead Paint Specialist, at (319) 286-5179.
- ✓ **Corridor MPO** - In May of 2008, the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (Corridor MPO), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Cedar Rapids Metro area, hired *Quality Counts LLC* of Portland Oregon to perform traffic counts throughout the greater Cedar Rapids area. The traffic count program was placed on hold in the aftermath of the flood of June 2008. The traffic count program has now resumed and will continue for the next 2-3 months. The staff of *Quality Counts LLC* will be placing black hoses in the road at several hundred locations to collect traffic data. The information collected will provide the Corridor MPO and local agencies with current and accurate data on existing traffic activities within the metro area. This data will be used to assist in planning for congestion management, air quality, roadway rehabilitation, and safety. For more information on this project, please contact Sushil Nepal at 286-5075.

## **FIRE**

- ✓ Screening has been completed on the 8 new rookies and they will start their seven week academy on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- ✓ The new rescue truck is being outfitted and will be placed in service soon.
- ✓ The building committee met last week to discuss the usage of the Fleck building. The Fleck building will be staffed with a truck company. This decision was based on several factors: the need to have staffing for the vehicles at Fleck (hazmat, sp. ops, etc), backing up E8 on medicals and duplication of vehicles at other stations.
- ✓ The City Master plan for fire station placement is looking at call volume, run times, resource needs and a comprehensive study for station development.

## **LIBRARY**

- ✓ The library recently signed leases on two of the proposed 6 spaces to be used at Westdale Mall; the space previously occupied by the Osco Store on the main floor and the small connected space referred to as the "Osco Annex."
- ✓ A lease has also been signed to allow the Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center to re-open their statewide clearing house. Their new location will be at 280 Blairs Ferry Road NE. They plan to re-open on October 1.
- ✓ The library will be closed until 1:00pm on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> for an all-staff training session, focusing on rebuilding services at Westdale.

## **POLICE**

- ✓ On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Police responded to a shooting at 1846 A Ave NE and found a subject that was shot in the leg. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Police responded to Edgewood Rd & Johnson Ave NW and found a subject had been shot in the leg. On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Police responded to a home invasion at 1223 16th St SE, in which a subject entered the residence and was shot in the leg.
- ✓ On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Police investigated a possible kidnapping at 811 Oakland Rd NE. Officers arrested 4 male juveniles and charged them with kidnapping. There were additional drug charges on one of those arrested.
- ✓ On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Police arrested Jason Blackcloud and charged him with the murder of Jerry Hurt. The murder took place on August 26, 2008 at the corner of 2 Ave & 14 St SE.
- ✓ The anti-graffiti watch has been stepped up with the recent increase in graffiti around town.
- ✓ The Spirit of Faith Church has been having numerous criminal mischief reports for some time. A COPPS project was initiated and an arrest was made of a 13 year old neighbor for Criminal Mischief.
- ✓ CRPD has taken 369 reports since September 13<sup>th</sup>. Of those reports, 12 were burglaries, 46 criminal mischief, 18 theft from vehicles, 24 assaults, 9 domestic abuse, 3 narcotics related arrests, 1 robbery and 2 auto theft.
- ✓ Some of reported crime in the flood zone areas is directly related to events returning and bar re-openings in the flood zones. For example, on September 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:40pm – 10:15pm, 2 intoxication arrests were made; September 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00pm – 12:30am, arrests were made near 2 bars for possession of marijuana, possession of cocaine, intoxication, and hit & run. Theft from vehicle reports dramatically increase in the parkades during events.
- ✓ There have been 319 reports taken in the flood zone since June 10, 2008. Of those reports, there were 75 burglaries, 54 thefts, 43 criminal mischief, 24 thefts from vehicle, 22 curfew violations and 20 intoxications.
- ✓ Most of the criminal mischief reports the last 2 weeks have been the increase of BB guns used to break out windows of cars and of buildings.
- ✓ The Cedar Rapids Police Academy celebrated the graduation of 17 officers and deputies from the Cedar Rapids Police Academy on September 19, 2008. The Academy began on June 1, 2008, prior to the flood and was housed at the CRPD but was forced to move upon evacuation of the Police Station. The flood water may have forced the Academy to move to an alternative location, but the Officers and Deputies were able to graduate on time. Of the 17 graduates, 11 were from the CRPD; 2 deputies from the Linn County Sheriff's Office; 2 officers from the Eastern Iowa Airport and 1 High Risk Unit Officer from the Department of Corrections.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- ✓ In the past week, the City's first "countdown" pedestrian traffic signal indications were placed into operation. The countdown display shows the remaining time provided for a person to cross the street where cross street vehicular traffic has a red light. The project, partially funded by a grant from Iowa DOT's Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) to upgrade mid-block school crossing signals at ten locations, installed the pedestrian "countdown" indications for crossing 42<sup>nd</sup> Street NE near Marilyn Drive, Oakland Road NE near K Avenue, and Old Marion Road NE near Hollywood Blvd. Work at the remaining sites including improvements to sidewalk ramps, will be completed this fall.
- ✓ While the current version of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) allows pedestrian "countdown" traffic signal indications as an optional feature, a proposed revision to the MUTCD provides them as a standard feature. Traffic Engineering has established a prioritized schedule for conversion of existing pedestrian signal indications to pedestrian "countdown" signal indications that will be incorporated into the 10-year Capital Improvement Program.

- ✓ Several power service cabinets controlling streetlights maintained by the City were submerged during the June flood. Most cabinets have been returned to service, but repairs in Czech Village had been delayed due to problems with delivery of needed parts. Business owners reported concerns with nighttime security. Traffic Signals Division staff implemented a plan that utilized two gas-powered generators to power the 25 decorative streetlights, and placed the generators into operation every evening. Repairs to the power service cabinet controlling the Czech Village streetlights, including new electric meters meeting Alliant Energy requirements, were completed this week and the streetlights on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW were returned to normal operation.
- ✓ Sewer Maintenance crews continue to clean and televise the flood zone. The pace of work is being increased by overtime to keep residents and businesses from having any city caused backups. None have occurred to date and eight line breaks have been found.
- ✓ Sewer Maintenance is on pace for another record low year on reported sanitary sewer line blockages (not caused by flood events). Only 4 blockages were reported in the last quarter and 12 so far this year. This is 15% of the national average based on numbers for a city system of our size (as reported in a national trade journal).
- ✓ Sewer construction crews work this week will include installation of a drain line on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street SE south of Mt Vernon Rd SE, installation of an access culvert for the detention basin on E Ave NW west of Stoney Point Rd NW which will allow mowing and an improvement in the quality of the appearance for the residents, and repair of a storm intake on Forest Dr SE at Linden Drive.
- ✓ Street construction crews will repair the following locations; 26<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Harold Drive @ Harold Court SE, 1400 block Memorial Drive SE.
- ✓ Seal coat work is nearing completion. Roughly 20,000 gallons of oil were used last week. Areas for this week include E Avenue NW, Sylvia Drive NE, Ellis Road NW between 80<sup>th</sup> and F Avenue NW, and part of City Lot 20 by the Police Station.
- ✓ Mowing crews are starting the third rotation for the season in the SW side of the town.
- ✓ Major patching work will be complete on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street SE.
- ✓ Fleet Services has identified and is in the process of buying seven graders to replace units lost in the flood. They will be here in late October or early November. This means the same number of graders and plow trucks will be available for this coming snow and ice season as last year.
- ✓ Beginning Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets SE will be closed at the Union Pacific railroad tracks for crossing repair work. The work is expected to take about one week.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

*(Not all meetings are noted. The calendar is **not** an official posting.)*

<b>Monday, September 22</b>	8:00am	Council Briefing, ( <i>Lower Level Conference Room</i> )
	2:30pm	Press Conference about Skogman Proposal & Housing Strategy, ( <i>12th Avenue &amp; 8th Street SE, near empty lots</i> )
	5:00pm	Council meeting with CR School Board, ( <i>Kennedy High School Band Room, #365</i> )
<b>Tuesday, September 23</b>	10:00am	Legislative Meeting, ( <i>Conference Room B</i> )
	11:30am	Corridor Business Journal: Commercial Real Estate Trends luncheon, ( <i>Cedar Rapids Marriott</i> )
	5:00pm	Conversations with Council, ( <i>Godfathers Pizza meeting room in Town &amp; Country, 3647- 1st Avenue SE</i> )
<b>Wednesday, September 24</b>	1:00pm	Council Property Acquisition discussion, ( <i>Lower Level Conference Room</i> )
	5:30pm	Council Meeting, ( <i>AEGON USA Auditorium, 4333 Edgewood Rd</i> )

**Thursday, September 25**

8:00am Legislative Meeting, (*Conference Room B*)  
5:00pm Cedar Hills Neighborhood Association meeting, (*St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4700 Johnson Ave NW*)  
7:00pm Northwest Neighborhood Association meeting, (*St James United Methodist Church, 1430 Ellis Blvd NW*)

**Friday, September 26**

8:00am Council Briefing, (*Lower Level Conference Room*)  
10:00am Council Communication Team Enhancement meeting, (*Conference Room A*)