



CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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July 29, 2009

The Honorable Mayor Dan Devine
and Members of the Common Council
7525 W. Greenfield Avenue
West Allis WI 53214

Subject: Report on June 2009 Flooding

Dear Mayor Devine and Common Council Members:

Enclosed is a staff report on the flooding that occurred in the City on June 18 and 19 of this year. The report is a result of discussion at a Department/Division Head Staff meeting on July 21. The report is divided into two sections: General Comments and Recommendations. This report is in response to Alderperson Lajsic's letter of July 1, 2009 in which he requested an analysis as to whether anything could be done differently or improved.

I trust that this report is satisfactory and responds to Alderperson Lajsic's request. However, if there are any questions or if you need further clarification, please feel free to contact me or the affected staff person.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Ziehler,
City Administrative Officer, Clerk/Treasurer

PMZ:jfw

cc: Dept/Div Heads
All Alderpersons

ADMAORDRESMCC.0609 FloodReport

REPORT ON JUNE 2009 FLOODING
FROM DISCUSSION AT THE
DEPT/DIV HEAD MEETING ON JULY 21, 2009

General Comments

1. Steve Hook summarized how the EOC works, when it is activated, the role of each participant; the City response was appropriate for the situation involved.
2. Mayor Devine stated that the citywide community meeting was to collect data so event circumstances can be addressed (what happened, where, why, and come up with solutions, where there are solutions) that are technically and economically feasible.
3. Paul Ziehler stated that most people want the flooding stopped by improving the sanitary and storm sewers performance.
4. Mayor Devine stated he would like to be contacted early on to be kept informed and knowledgeable of what is happening. (The Alderpersons are likely to want to also be notified in some similar, reasonable fashion.)
5. Chief Hook stated that in his mind, there are two key questions:
 - a. At what point does Mayor and others get involved?
 - b. When does the City declare an emergency and/or activate the EOC?
6. Ted Atkinson stated that the Building Inspections Dept. has the ability to waive fees in two events back-to-back, if desirable. (It was generally decided not to do this.)
7. Contrary to some statements, the Police Department did not enforce overnight parking during the storm (only 4 tickets were issued).

Recommendations

1. There was a general consensus that communication amongst departments needs to be improved.
2. Ted Atkinson commented that the Building Inspection Dept. needs to be notified and involved early on; there was general consensus to do that.
3. There was a general consensus that there is a need for some kind of intermediary steps or system in place to respond better (possible partial activation of something like a modified EOC). Steve Hook (as Emergency Government Coordinator) will take the lead in drafting procedures that would establish parameters for an emergency response plan on when to do what. This procedural plan will include a review of all communication efforts, including

protocols for when and where people call, and for what. It will also include communication tiers for what departments get notified for what and when.

4. There was also general agreement to modifying the City's emergency response plan to address emergencies from two perspectives: mitigation and recovery. Consideration will be given to assigning different coordinators or departments to handle recovery (e.g., Development or Engineering) as separate from mitigation.
5. Joe Burtch identified a need to coordinate questionnaires for technical/engineering data collection and data for damage to structures; there was general consensus to do that. The goal of this data will be to determine cause of problem in flooded area and to identify potential solutions and costs.
6. It was the general consensus that there is a need to coordinate and map all data collection points to overlay all information into one overall database that can be used for analysis (which IT is now already doing).
7. It was the general consensus that mitigation and coordination need to be addressed better.