

Agenda Report

August 19, 2013 City Council Meeting

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Item No. 11

ISSUE: Resolution to Adopt “StormReady” Designation

Consideration of Resolution 13-0856 approving the City of Windsor Heights as a StormReady city within Polk County.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2001 Polk County has been designated as a StormReady community by the National Weather Service and the Central Iowa StormReady Advisory Board. The National Weather Service has asked all the communities in Polk County to reaffirm their support of the six guidelines necessary to be considered a StormReady Community.

The essence of the StormReady program is to promote the reception and dissemination of severe weather information and mitigate the effects of severe weather through preparedness. Polk County Emergency Management is requesting each community’s support of the initiatives that are necessary for this recognition so that Polk County can continue to be StormReady.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council approve the resolution.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, City Administrator

Dennis McDaniel, Chief of Police

Christopher Cross, Fire Chief

THE CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IOWA

RESOLUTION 13-0856

**APPROVING THE CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IOWA AS A “StormReady”
COMMUNITY**

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IOWA

WHEREAS, since 2001 Polk County has been designated as a StormReady community by the National Weather Service and the Central Iowa StormReady Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service (NWS) has asked all the communities in Polk County to reaffirm their support of the six (6) guidelines necessary to be considered a StormReady Community which include the following:

1. Maintain a 24-hour Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to receive NWS information.
2. Maintain a 24-hour EOC capable of receiving multiple communication methods of NWS warnings.
3. Maintain a 24-hour EOC capable of gathering ancillary weather information, such as internet radar, river gauging stations, etc.
4. Maintain several means of ensuring timely warning dissemination to citizens, which includes weather radios at County, City, and School facilities, outdoor warning sirens, etc.
5. Through the Emergency Management Commission, conduct or facilitate safety talks for schools, hospitals, nursing homes and industries; publicize use of NOAA Weather Radios; send EOC staff to free NWS storm spotter training at least every other year; host a spotter training session every year.
6. Maintain a formal hazardous weather operations plan, assure biennial visits by Emergency Coordinator to NWS, and assure annual visits by NWS official to community; and

WHEREAS, Polk County is currently in compliance with the six guidelines and certifies that all City Hall’s, School Superintendent Offices within the county are equipped with an operational NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio; and

WHEREAS, Polk County, through Polk County Emergency Management, supports and will publicize any local community preparedness presentations such as weather safety talks and spotter training sessions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Windsor Heights hereby pledges to support the StormReady Program’s six guidelines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Windsor Heights is hereby appointed to execute the attached letter to the National Weather Service.

David J. Sullivan, Mayor

Attest:

Jeff Fiegenschuh
City Administrator



Date: August 14, 2013
To: Central Iowa StormReady Advisory Board
From: Dennis McDaniel, Police Chief
Subject: Pledge of Support for StormReady Guidelines

Polk County has applied for StormReady certification and the City of Windsor Heights pledges to support the six guidelines needed for recognition. This includes city agencies, when operational, forwarding reports of severe weather to the county's 24 hour warning point (WP) and/or Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for relay to the National Weather Service. Severe weather is defined as hail 1 inch diameter or greater (penny or larger), winds that produce damage or are 58 mph or greater, flash flooding and tornadoes.

The city certifies that, at a minimum, any City Hall or school superintendent office within the city limits is equipped with an operational NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio and pledges to support and publicize any local community preparedness presentations such as weather safety talks and spotter training sessions.

The essence of the StormReady program is to promote the reception and dissemination of severe weather information and mitigate the effects of severe weather through preparedness. The City of Windsor Heights supports these initiatives and Polk County becoming StormReady.

Dennis W. McDaniel
Chief of Police
Windsor Heights P.D.