



For Immediate Release

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DATE: August 14, 2014
TO: All Press Media
SUBJECT: Mayor Declares State of Emergency

On August 12, 2014, Mayor Phil O'Dwyer declared that a state of emergency exists in the City of Berkley. In the notification to the Oakland County Executive, the Mayor stated, "I hereby declare that a state of emergency exists and the response and recovery aspects of the emergency operations plan have been activated." Governor Rick Snyder has since issued a disaster declaration that includes Oakland County. This is the beginning of a process that could result in emergency assistance for eligible property owners but details are not available at this time.

Berkley residents are still recovering from damages resulting from flooded streets and basements. "Our residents are under water, municipal buildings have sustained significant water damage, we've incurred overtime cost for Public Safety first responders and Public Works crews. There is still a lot of cleanup to do," says Mayor Phil O'Dwyer. "I can relate to everyone who has experienced property damage and loss following this massive rainfall." The Mayor had to remove furniture, carpet and other possessions from his basement that also flooded.

A Notice of Claim is available for Berkley residents seeking relief for damages from the City. Upon receipt, completed claims are sent to the City's insurance company for disposition. The insurance company will contact claimants directly. The form is available on the City's website: www.berkleymich.org.

Trash haulers in southeast Michigan are overwhelmed by the volume of damaged goods and trash that has been removed from flooded homes. Tringali Sanitation picks up trash for several communities, including Berkley. They are doing everything they can to address the widespread disaster, utilizing more trucks and staff working overtime. Due to the extreme volumes, regularly scheduled trash pick-ups will be delayed. Residents are encouraged to place damaged items and debris at the curb as soon as possible following the guidelines for trash collection.

The City has taken additional measures to address the increasing volume of flood debris that is mounting on residential streets. The Department of Public Works has redirected staff to pick up garbage using equipment typically reserved for other purposes. "We are doing everything we can expedite the process including working additional hours but trash removal will take time. Our residents have been very patient and we appreciate that," said Derrick Schueller, Public Works Director.

Berkley's City Hall and Ice Arena also experience water damage from the heavy rains. "We had to close the main entrance to City Hall because of wet carpeting and other hazardous conditions. We've taken the necessary precautions but we want to be sure the area is safe for everyone," said City Manager Jane Bais-DiSessa. City Hall visitors are asked to enter the building from Coolidge. This is a temporary measure. The main entrance is expected to reopen by August 18.

Updates for this flood event will be posted on the City's website: www.berkleymich.org. Mobile App users will also receive updates as soon as they are posted.

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