

# DRAFT

## RESOLUTION OF THE AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL REGARDING FLOOD WARNING

**WHEREAS**, The Onion Creek, Yarrabee Bend, Onion Creek Plantations, Onion Creek Forest, Silvermine, Bluff Springs, Dove Springs and Del Valle neighborhoods are all in the 100-year floodplain, but these neighborhoods did not receive sufficient warning of imminent flooding on October 31 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequent analysis of stream gauges and rainfall patterns by members of the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) has shown that advanced warning could have been given to these neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, destructive floods that cause the loss of both life and property can occur anywhere development has occurred in the 100-year floodplain; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Austin Neighborhoods Council and the Southeast Neighborhood Area Contact Team request that the City Council appropriate sufficient resources to:

1. Expand the Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) to include additional “combination” gauges upstream from flood-prone neighborhoods that would measure both rainfall and stream flow in all Austin watersheds.
2. Direct City of Austin staff to work with other Central Texas counties and agencies to include stream-level gauges outside of the Austin City and Travis County jurisdictions in FEWS.
3. Direct the Watershed Protection Department to determine whether or not its flood modeling system has the capacity to predict timely and adequately downstream flood conditions with all relevant rainfall and stream-level gauge information.
4. Direct the Austin Travis County Emergency Operations Center to be activated whenever a weather forecast predicts or indicates the potential for extreme rainfall flood conditions.
5. Direct the public safety departments to develop a Blue Flag protocol for potential flood conditions that includes the following items:
  - Reallocation of resources to cover neighborhoods with potential flooding threat,
  - Accommodation for the disabled (including deaf) and the elderly,
  - Cell phone reverse 911 calls (including training at-risk neighborhoods in English and Spanish),
  - Procedural requirements for public safety departments to assist residents immediately with evacuations and searches when flood conditions are recognized,
  - Siren warnings,
  - Weather-radio warning.

# DRAFT

## 6. Coordinate with neighborhood leaders to identify:

- Evacuation routes and how much advanced notice would be needed to reach higher ground,
- “Meet Up” locations so family members can locate each other,
- Vulnerable residents such as the disabled, elderly, and children, who may need special assistance,
- Potential new locations for sirens on schools, public buildings, park areas, or a house.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Austin Neighborhoods Council and the Southeast Neighborhood Area Contact Team requests that the City:

- Implement “on the ground” training drills in English and Spanish for flood and disaster awareness for each neighborhood;
- Identify flood evacuation routes with signage in each at-risk neighborhood;
- Require that all floodplain property leases contain notification of location within a flood-prone area and information about flood warnings and evacuation;
- Develop ongoing scheduled training for flood rescue and water equipment by the public safety departments;
- Store water rescue equipment close to the neighborhoods with the greatest potential for floods.

**Presented to ANC Membership:** [4/23/14]

**Membership Approved:** [date]

**Sponsor Contact:** Malcolm Yeatts, ANC Sector 9 Representative, [myeatts@austin.rr.com](mailto:myeatts@austin.rr.com)