



For Immediate Release

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City of Lowell February 23, 2018 2PM Flood Update.

Lowell, Michigan, February 22, 2018 – As of 7:05 AM, our flood stage level is 17.47 feet and the City is approaching moderate flood status. The National Weather Service has projected a decrease in our elevated flood stage by .4 feet to 18.2 feet. At this time we still anticipate cresting sometime after 7 PM on Friday evening. We anticipate our flood level to be in this state for approximately 12 hours before we see a reduction in elevation. This projection is less than the flood of 2013 which reached 19.2 ft. and greater than our 2004 flood elevation of 17.55 ft. This would be projected to be the fourth highest elevation flood in City of Lowell history.

City staff is working very hard and is working long hours to manage this event. The Police Department has added additional officers above the normal daily compliment. The Public Works staff has been working staggered shifts from 6PM last evening up to now to manage the event. The Lowell Area Fire Department is available if needed. Our plan is to continue this through the weekend. At this time, we do not anticipate the need to have City Hall staff on duty this weekend. All calls to the Police Department will be forwarded to Kent County Central Dispatch.

Road closures at this time are the following: Jackson St. from Main Street to Grand River Dr. in Lowell Township is closed, all streets south of Main St. east of Monroe and west of Division are closed, and Bowes Rd. from Fulton Street (M-21) in Lowell Township to Hudson St is closed also. At this time, we do not anticipate the need to close Hudson St. but do ask drivers to be mindful and use caution when crossing over the Grand River. The City of Lowell will take a zero tolerance approach to drivers who attempt to enter barricaded areas unless those drivers reside in the affected area.

The City Manager and Police Chief have assessed flooding in Ionia and Saranac and do not anticipate the need to evacuate the affected areas in our City. If the need of sheltering arises, First Baptist Church of Lowell at 2275 W. Main would be the location. Sheltering has not been activated at this time.

Our biggest concern at this time is over taxation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Suez International who manages our plant is slowing down the system to prevent an overload. As of 4:00 p.m. we began bypass pumping, where combined storm water and diluted sanitary sewer is being discharged directly into the Grand River to alleviate the Wastewater Treatment Plant from being overwhelmed. The release into the river was also to help prevent backups into basements. We have notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Kent County Health Department, the daily news publication of the county where the discharge occurred and nearby downstream communities affected by this as required by Michigan Law. This occurred in the 2013 flooding also. That being said, we are receiving some reports of sewer backups north of Main St. and east of Monroe St.

The most up to date information for residents will be available via Facebook pages on the City of Lowell, Lowell Police Department and Lowell Area Fire Department.

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