

Memorandum



DATE February 8, 2019

CITY OF DALLAS

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Office of Emergency Management Wireless Emergency Alert Test**

On March 4th, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will conduct a live end-to-end test of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. This test will use the boundaries of the Central Business District as the target alert area. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the WEA system can effectively disseminate a test message to a targeted location. Cellular phones in the Central Business District should receive the following message:

"This is a test of City of Dallas Emergency Alerts. No Action is required."

The WEA system is a component of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). In 2015, the City of Dallas was designated as an Alerting Authority, allowing the City to disseminate timely emergency information to our residents and guests. Over the last several months, OEM has worked closely with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure this test is successful. The City of Dallas faces a wide variety of hazards that could impact our residents and guests. In addition, the FCC rules for end-to-end live testing of WEAs will change in May 2019, making live tests an "opt-in" only process. It is imperative that we conduct this test before those rules change to ensure the effectiveness of the system. This also builds upon FEMA's test conducted on October 3rd, 2018, which demonstrated the alert could be sent nationwide, but did not test local coverage and geo-targeting capabilities.

In addition, OEM has worked with our partner agencies both within the city and regionally to ensure that our public safety partners are aware of this test. In an effort to bring awareness of this test to the public we are launching a public announcement campaign. Should members of the public not want to receive the alert, they may "opt-out" by adjusting the settings on their phone. If you have questions, please contact Rocky Vaz in the Office of Emergency Management.

A handwritten signature of T.C. Broadnax, City Manager.

T.C. Broadnax
City Manager

c:
Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Carol A. Smith, City Auditor (Interim)
Bilierae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer
Directors and Assistant Directors