Memorandum



DATE July 13, 2018

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT Update to the Incident at Construction Site for City Wastewater Project

This memo serves as an update to the incident that occurred on July 5, 2018, at one of our construction projects. RKM Utility Services, Inc. (RKM), was replacing an existing wastewater pipeline on Singleton Boulevard between Sea Harbor Road and Barge Lane. One RKM employee passed away after losing consciousness due to low oxygen levels in the pipeline trench. Two additional RKM employees were taken to Methodist Hospital and were released on Friday, July 6, 2018.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) was notified by the contractor and representatives arrived at the site the day of the incident. OSHA has been in contact with RKM and City staff, and conducted an investigation of the incident.

A work plan to address safety risks at the site is being prepared by RKM and will be provided to City staff for review. Construction operations will not resume until an approved work plan is in place that includes adequate safety measures. City staff will closely monitor construction activities to ensure the contractor is complying with the approved safety plan.

In addition, City staff is evaluating current safety procedures to determine if additional requirements and safeguards need to be implemented going forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Majed Al-Ghafry, P.E. Assistant City Manager

c:

T.C. Broadnax, City Manager Larry Casto, City Attorney Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor Bilierae Johnson, City Secretary Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge Kimberly Bizor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Chief of Community Services
Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services
Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience
Directors and Assistant Directors