



# MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda  
Item No. IX.K.  
12/22/2015

## The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Resolution approving the Warning Annex of the City's Emergency Operations Plan as revised; authorizing and directing the City Manager to implement the revised Warning Annex and to approve future revisions to the Emergency Operations Plan Appendices and Emergency Support Function Annexes and Functional and/or Hazard Specific Plans as may be needed to supplement the Warning Annex of the Emergency Operations Plan.

### Background

The Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of 2003 requires each local emergency management organization to develop, maintain, and revise, as necessary, an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for their jurisdiction. The City of Oklahoma City Municipal Code specifies procedures for the City Council to adopt by resolution the Emergency Operations Plan. The Warning Annex is part of the EOP.

The Oklahoma City Office of Emergency Management is responsible for developing and maintaining the City of Oklahoma City Policy on the activation of the Outdoor Warning System (OWS). Lessons learned, changing technology, and accepted emergency management practices require periodic revisions of the Warning Annex and OWS Policy.

Oklahoma City's Office of Emergency Management is recommending the following changes to the Warning Annex and specifically with regards to the activation of the OWS when there is a tornado threat:

1. Expanding the activation of the OWS not only on the National Weather Service (NWS) issuing a Tornado Warning but also when City public safety personnel in the field report a tornado, there is credible evidence of a tornado threatening or occurring in Oklahoma City, or when recommended by the Oklahoma City Office of Emergency Management.
2. Changing from a county warning to a threat-based sector warning. The OWS has been divided into nine sectors. 911 Communications activates the OWS sectors in the portion of the city threatened by a tornado.

City staff has compared 45 NWS Storm-Based Tornado Warning Polygons applicable to the City from 2010-2015 to the proposed sectors.

The majority of these historical polygons matched well with the proposed sectors. The proposed sectors give City staff good flexibility to mix and match sectors to the Storm-Based Warning Polygon. The use of the proposed sectors enables the City to warn the portion of the city threatened by the tornado.

Because Warning Polygons will not exactly match the sectors some over warning will still occur thereby still providing warning to those who may be driving towards it. However, NWS staff has estimated that the use of the City's threat-based sector warnings could reduce over warning and/or false warnings by as much as 68%.

City staff from various departments have reviewed the revisions and provided input which has been incorporated into the revisions. The proposed revisions have been well received during presentations to the City's Local Preparedness and Planning Committee (LPPC), citizen volunteers, and at the Central Oklahoma Emergency Management Association Workshop. The Municipal Counselor's Office reviewed the EOP revisions and their recommended changes have been incorporated into the revised EOP.

The City Manager is authorized to implement the revised Warning Annex and to approve future revisions to the Emergency Operations Plan Appendices and Emergency Support Function Annexes and Functional and/or Hazard Specific Plans as may be needed to supplement the Warning Annex of the Emergency Operations Plan.

Review

Police Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.

Attachment