

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Staff briefing on the Committee on Emergency Preparedness Report and Recommendations

SUMMARY:

Briefing on Winter Storm Uri including the Mayor's Committee on emergency Preparedness' Report and Recommendations

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

From February 13, 2021 to February 19, 2021, the continental United States experienced a severe winter storm resulting from the southern migration of a polar vortex that meteorologists characterize as the most significant in terms of scope and duration since the monitoring of these weather phenomenon began in the 1950s. With this storm, referred to as Winter Storm Uri, San Antonio experienced three consecutive days of record low temperatures and record low daily high temperatures and wind chills.

Winter Storm Uri had significant cascading impacts on the San Antonio community and our residents, including: electricity outages, water outages, and transportation issues to include air, public, and vehicular.

On February 22nd, the Mayor created the Committee on Emergency Preparedness. The Mayor tasked the Committee with studying the event to determine what happened and to provide recommendations on what needs to be done to comprehensively improve preparation, response, recovery, and management of future emergencies with changing conditions and cascading impacts like Winter Storm Uri. The study was focused on CPS Energy, the San Antonio Water System (SAWS), and the City's Emergency Operations Center.

The Committee held its first meeting on March 5, 2021, and had 13 subsequent meetings. In these meetings, the Committee took into consideration public feedback regarding public entity performance and preparation in the "before, during, and after" phases of Winter Storm Uri. The Report of the Committee on Emergency Preparedness contained forty eight recommendations and was presented to City Council on June 24, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.