

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Committee on Emergency Preparedness Recommendations August 24, 2021

Presented by: Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer

Winter Storm Uri

- February 13 - 19, 2021
- Most significant storm since the monitoring of these weather phenomenon began in the 1950s.
- Consecutive days of record low temperatures and wind chills.
- Cascading impacts including
 - electricity outages,
 - water outages, and
 - transportation issues



Committee on Emergency Preparedness



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF MAYOR RON NIRENBERG

TO: City Council
FROM: Ron Nirenberg, Mayor
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Tina Flores, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney
SUBJECT: Select Committee on 2021 Winter Storm Preparedness and Response
DATE: February 22, 2021

The past week of winter weather and the impact on our residents have led to frustration, questions, calls for accountability and ongoing concerns about our city's resilience and preparedness. While many of the factors that triggered the devastating electrical and water outages in our community were not within our control, it is our duty to report to the community how our emergency response operations and public utilities got in this situation and what can be done to be better prepared for the future.

To this end, I have tasked four council members and three community stakeholders to find out why this happened and recommend what needs to be done so we are better prepared in the future. Our community deserves answers. I am asking that this effort be done as comprehensively and expeditiously as possible while maintaining the necessary thoroughness.

I am grateful to the following individuals who have accepted to serve on the committee:

1. Chair – Reed Williams, former City Councilmember District 8
2. Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, City Council District 4
3. Ana Sandoval, City Council District 7
4. Manny Pelaez, City Council District 8
5. Clayton Perry, City Council District 10
6. Lisa Tatum, former assistant criminal district attorney and president of the Texas Bar Association
7. General Edward A. Rice Jr. (RET.)

For the committee to be successful, I am asking the City Manager to provide support to this committee with the appropriate City staff, including the City Attorney's Office and the Public Utilities Division, to coordinate with CPS and SAWS staff and to facilitate the inclusion of any experts and stakeholders, as needed by the committee.

I look forward to the answers that this process will provide and the actions that will enable San Antonio to weather future crises.



Ron Nirenberg
Mayor

On February 22, 2021, Mayor Ron Nirenberg created the Committee on Emergency Preparedness to:

- Find out what happened
- Recommend actions to comprehensively improve preparation, response, recovery, and management of future emergencies with changing conditions and cascading impacts

Committee Members

- Chair, Reed Williams, former City Councilmember District 8
- Vice Chair, General Edward A. Rice Jr., USAF (RET)
- Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, City Council District 4
- Ana Sandoval, City Council District 7
- Manny Pelaez, City Council District 8
- Clayton Perry, City Council District 10
- Lisa Tatum, former assistant criminal district attorney and president of the Texas Bar Association

March 12, 2021

Committee on
Emergency Preparedness



Committee Actions



- Fourteen public, live-streamed meetings starting March 5
- Issued more than 100 Requests For Information (RFIs)
- Gathered community input through an online portal, 311, and text messages.
- Delivered report to Council June 24, 2021



Recommendations

The Committee's Report contained 48 recommendations

CPS Energy	8
SAWS	16
Emergency Operation Center	24

Each organization has been working diligently to address the recommendations



- Committee report, meeting recordings, and RFIs are all captured on a public webpage

www.sanantonio.gov/emergency-preparedness

- Committee Report attached to the agenda item

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