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MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

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City of Charleston Hurricane Matthew PM Update

Charleston, S.C.—The City of Charleston has now shifted into response mode. The high winds and heavy rains have subsided, allowing emergency personnel to begin preliminary damage assessments.

Flood waters remain throughout the city. Also of concern are downed trees and powerlines. Many neighborhoods are currently without power.

Every city department has representatives in the Municipal Emergency Operations Center who are assisting in the response efforts. Crews are out assessing damage in neighborhoods and to infrastructure, including roads, drainage apparatus, city buildings and bridges.

The goal is to organize an efficient and coordinated recovery plan to make the city safe for everyone as quickly as possible.

At the request of South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the Charleston Police Department, in coordination with Mount Pleasant Police Department, closed the Ravenel Bridge at 12:15 p.m. to allow SCDOT engineers to inspect the bridge to ensure there was no damage from the high winds. The bridge will remain closed until the inspections are made. At this time, there is no estimate of how long that will take.

Due to severe flooding in some areas, debris in roadways and downed trees and powerlines, the City of Charleston will enact a curfew at 8 p.m. tonight, October 8 through 8 a.m. tomorrow, October 9. The curfew is needed for public safety, as after dark, both pedestrian and vehicular travel around the city would be very dangerous.

City of Charleston Emergency Manager Mark Wilbert said, “We hope everyone who stayed made it through the storm safely. We want to thank all of the citizens and members of our business community who helped in our preparation efforts. We are now hard at work assessing damage and beginning the response and recovery efforts.”

Earlier today, Governor Nikki Haley advised citizens who evacuated that it is not safe to return home yet.

Mayor John Tecklenburg reiterated the Governor’s message saying, “Although the storm has passed, we ask that citizens wait before returning home. We need time to assess the damage

and ensure that the City of Charleston is a safe place for you to return home to. We are working with area municipalities, counties and the state to determine when it will be safe to return home.”

To help in the city’s preliminary damage assessment effort, citizens are asked to report any damage to www.charleston-sc.gov/report-damage or call the City of Charleston Citizen Information Line at 843-973-7219. This information will be used to evaluate which areas of the city were most affected by the storm.

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