



12650 DETROIT AVENUE 44107 216-529-6055
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Lakewood City Council
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KYLE BAKER, VICE PRESIDENT

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TRISTAN RADER
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Ward Council
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CINDY STREBIG, WARD 3
CINDY MARX, WARD 4

Noticed 10/09/24

PUBLIC NOTICE – PUBLIC WORKS & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Public Works & Sustainability Committee will meet Monday October 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Lakewood City Hall at 12650 Detroit Avenue. The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting will be livestreamed on the City's website at the following link:

www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos

PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL (Updated 6/21)

The public is invited to comment on agenda items in person or by submitting a written comment in advance of the meeting using the eComment platform available [HERE](#). New users must create an eComment account.

The agenda is as follows:

Approval of the minutes of the May 6, 2024 Public Works & Sustainability Committee

Communication from Councilmembers Bullock, Marx, and Strebis regarding evaluation of August 2024 storm outages, preparation, and recovery. (*referred to PWS 09/03/24*)

Tristan Rader, Chair

Tom Bullock, Bryan Evans; Members

PUBLIC WORKS & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations for participation in meetings must request accommodations at least 3 business days ahead of the scheduled meeting. Contact Michelle Nochta at (216) 529-5906 michelle.nochta@lakewoodoh.net.



12650 DETROIT AVENUE 44107 216/529-6055 FAX 216/226-3650

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Ward Council
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[VACANT], WARD 2
CINDY STREBIG, WARD 3
CINDY MARX, WARD 4

September 3, 2024

Lakewood City Council
12650 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Re: Evaluation of August 2024 storm outages, preparation, and recovery

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

The storm of August 2024 affected Lakewood and many other areas of Northeast Ohio, resulting in a long-enduring, far-reaching outage of both electric power and communications networks, greatly impacting Lakewood residents and businesses and creating safety hazards for many.

City of Lakewood personnel and utility repair crews worked overtime in storm recovery, and we thank them for their efforts.

Given the magnitude of the storm and its impacts, a review of emergency management and storm recovery preparation and performance is called for. What lessons have been learned from the storm and from storm recovery? What went well, and what was unsatisfactory? What can the City of Lakewood improve, both in our own efforts and in coordinating with other government agencies and the utility companies?

Importantly, much of this is beyond the City of Lakewood's direct control, but acutely affects our residents all the same. In particular:

- Electric service outage was extensive in reach and duration in Lakewood. What steps can the utility take to prevent damage or reduce its magnitude, and what can be done to shorten recovery time?
- Mobile phone service during the crisis was nearly inoperable for at least one major provider, and the long outage magnified safety risks for residents with medical needs confined to their homes.
- Wired communications service was greatly disrupted, with outages continuing even after power restored, in some cases.

Of note: the severity of communications networks outages is magnified by one cause not directly related to storms: the great increase in the number of households relying solely on mobile telephones and lacking traditional wired telephone service. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "With a staggering 71.7% of U.S. adults (183 million) now relying solely on wireless phones, landlines are becoming a thing of the past." **Therefore, to be effective, City emergency communications must incorporate plans, tools, and measures that can work even during a mobile network outage.** The recent storm provides a learning opportunity on this essential point.

We request that these questions be reviewed in a formal and systematic manner so that our plan for the next severe storm is as strong as it can be and so our recovery work is quick and effective.

We respectfully request a referral of this communication to a Council committee for further discussion, insight, and deliberation.

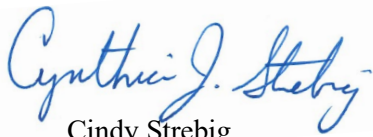
Sincerely,



Tom Bullock
Council At-Large



Cindy Marx
Ward 4



Cindy Streb
Ward 3