



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WATER STREET DECK CONDEMNED AFTER STRUCTURE FAILURE

Rockford, IL - The City of Rockford Water Street Deck, located at the northeast corner of Water Street and East State Street, suffered a significant structural failure today when an 18 inch by 12 foot section in the second level fell collapsed, leaving debris and concrete on a vehicle parked in the lower level.

The pavement failure was directly attributed to the age of the 35 year old deck, which was scheduled for demolition in the fall of 2014. There were not any vehicles parked on the second level at the time of the failure. City crews, replacing light bulbs near the deck were the first to notice the collapse and notified Public Works officials immediately. One vehicle, parked on the lower level of the structure was damaged.

City inspectors were on the scene shortly after the collapse and have condemned the structure. The 29 individuals that hold parking permits for the lot have been relocated to the Rockford Register Star parking lot off of Madison Street. Some of the permit holders with more limited mobility will be allowed to park in the main lot of the Rockford Register Star.

Individuals holding the permits for the Water Street deck will be granted a grace period for the remainder of the week if forced to park on the street for longer than the defined timeframe. Parking limits will be enforced again the week of August 25, 2014. Only individuals displaying a permit for the Water Street Deck will be granted the grace period.

Guests visited downtown are encouraged to utilize the parking available on State Street and on the surrounding streets. City-owned surface lots can be found on the east-end of State Street, on Madison and behind City Hall.

The Rockford City Market, which has called the Water Street Deck home since it opened, will be relocating the booths, stage, and porta-potties that were housed on the second level during the weekly event. Public Works staff has already begun working with the Market staff to relocate the booths, utilizing space on Water Street and Market Street, expanding slightly to include vendors starting at State Street north to Jefferson Street at the bridge. City Market Manager Cathy McDermott has assured everyone that the “market will go on” this Friday as planned.

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