



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J.  
Morrissey*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**Julia Scott Valdez**

**HR Director/Deputy City Administrator**

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**Phone: 815-987-5583**

**E-mail: [Julia.valdez@rockfordil.gov](mailto:Julia.valdez@rockfordil.gov)**

### ***CITY OFFICIALS URGE CITIZENS TO PREPARE FOR HEAVY RAINS***

Rockford, IL. April 17, 2013 – Rockford city leaders met this afternoon to assess the condition on all public infrastructures following the heavy rains this afternoon. Central in the discussions were water levels at the city’s many creeks drainage ways, and the Rock River.

While the break in the afternoon rain did allow water levels to recede, Rockford Fire, Police and Public Works employees will keep a close eye on the water and road ways throughout tonight and coming days of rain. “We urge our citizens to keep a close eye on the low areas surrounding their homes and their basements,” City Administrator Jim Ryan said. “Simple things like checking your downspouts and monitoring your sump pump could insure that the rains have minimal impact on your home during the storms.”

Citizens are also encouraged to exercise extreme caution while driving during the heavy storms. Police Chief Chet Epperson requested that Rockford drivers: “Slow down, pay close attention to the road and do not drive on a street that appears to be flooded; the water can be higher than you expect.”

The heavy rains have also caused additional damage to the city’s winter worn roadways, exposing more potholes and washing gravel and debris onto the roadways. Citizens are asked to call 815-987-5771 to report potholes or go to the Service Request portal on the City of Rockford website at [www.rockfordil.gov](http://www.rockfordil.gov).

The City of Rockford website at <http://rockfordil.gov/emergency-preparedness.aspx#Flood> provides additional information and resources for preparing to heavy rains and flooding.

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