

Mayor
David Barrow



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From: Mayor David Barrow
To: Members of the Public
Date: October 13, 2020
Re: Hurricane Delta Summary – City of Central

Central, LA - Unexpected early rain from Hurricane Delta brought nearly 8 inches of rain to Central within a few hours late Thursday evening, resulting in flash flooding across the city and the northern part of East Baton Rouge Parish and E. Feliciana Parish. Areas to the north of Central received over 10 inches of rain, causing the Comite River to dramatically rise nearly 19 feet within two hours early Friday morning and go above flood stage by nearly 6 feet. The river eventually reached a crest of 26.48 ft. around 2 a.m. Saturday morning. This marked the highest crest since the floods of 2016.

Despite the flash flooding and heavy rainfall, all of our major drainage channels, bayous, and rivers remained flowing, with some portions along the Blackwater Bayou lateral exceeding their banks for a short period of time. A very small number of homes in some of our usual low-lying areas received a small amount of water in their homes. Most of the issues we handled Friday morning dealt with debris that had floated downstream and clogged some culverts and drains. I want to personally thank all the citizens who assisted us by clearing their driveway culverts and drains in their yards and along their streets. We have 66 square miles to cover, and our crews cannot be everywhere at one time, which is why I thank all the citizens who assisted us.

Prior to and during the storm event last week, our Public Works Dept. handled nearly 50 requests related to the storm, ranging from checking problem-area culverts and bridges for debris to clearing trees that had fallen across roadways in the middle of the night. Our crews worked all night long Friday night during the high winds clearing roadways of debris and trees. I am very proud of our Public Works Department. We have a great crew. Central Fire Department responded to 21 calls Friday night and early Saturday morning related to the storm, most of which revolved around fallen trees on power lines and assisting a nearby agency on a house fire.

By Saturday morning, blue skies arrived, and residents could be seen all day Saturday cleaning up mostly small limbs and twigs from their yards. Only a few large trees were seen fallen over around the city. It was nothing compared to Gustav or Isaac. Utility workers from DEMCO and Entergy immediately began work restoring power. The majority of citizens had their power restored by Saturday afternoon. However, a few areas in the city had to wait 24 to 48 hours to have their power restored due to lines being down across the Comite River and other high-water areas, and the utility crews had to wait for the water to subside, while some areas had utility poles fall over in the woods, and crews had to wait for water to recede and debris to be cleared. For a storm with sustained high winds nearly 40 mph and

numerous trees across lines, the utility crews did a great job restoring power as quickly as they did. As of Tuesday morning, less than 40 residences in the city were still without power.

As for debris pickup, our debris contractor is scheduled to start on Monday, October 19. Please place your debris next to the street, and please do not put debris in the street creating a traffic hazard. Also, please do not place debris on top of water meters or near gas meters or mailboxes, as these can get damaged during the removal process. Also, please do not place debris under power lines or tree limbs where the crews cannot easily access the debris. It is expected to take 2-3 weeks to pick up all the debris around the city. Please have all your debris out by the street before Monday, October 19. Please do not mix your storm tree debris with other garbage and trash or it may not be picked up. Republic Waste will still pickup your regular garbage and trash.

I want to thank all of our citizens for their patience during and after the storm. Great work by our Public Works Dept, Central Fire Department, Central Police Dept, EBR Sheriff's Dept, DOTD, City-Parish and other agencies during the storm. Let's pray that this is the last storm event of the year, and South Louisiana can catch a break. I continue praying for our fellow neighbors in SW Louisiana who are still recovering from Hurricane Laura as well as those impacted by Hurricane Delta.