



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 07/31/2025

REQUESTER: David Grizzle

PRESENTER: David Grizzle, Emergency Management Coordinator

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R- 2526-25: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PROMOTING CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE CITIZEN CORPS PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

The City of Norman has had an active Citizen Corps program since 2004 that has engaged residents and visitors to Norman in a variety of outreach and training efforts to bolster preparedness and improve resiliency. Such efforts not only serve individuals but also communities and the state as a whole. Citizen Corps is a program that emerged in 2002 under a mandate from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to provide training to residents in the United States to facilitate recovery in the aftermath of disasters and acts of terrorism. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as a functional unit under DHS, was tasked with coordinating programmatic activities for Citizen Corps programs to be established at the community level nationwide. Citizen Corps Councils provide critical strategic guidance and exist at the national, state, territorial, local, and tribal levels of government. Local Citizen Corps Councils are critical to programmatic success by providing the leadership for programs at the community level and include a diverse array of stakeholders including emergency managers and first responders; volunteer and non-governmental faith- and community-based organizations; schools; hospitals; private businesses; neighborhood groups; and individual citizens.

DISCUSSION:

To meet the mandate to protect and serve the nation by assuring communities and their residents are prepared to meet the challenges imposed by disasters and acts of terrorism, the City of Norman embraced the call to develop a robust Citizen Corps program. This program has actively engaged in outreach and training efforts to help individuals and visitors in Norman acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to promote individual preparedness and improve resiliency. The Norman Emergency Response Volunteer Team (NERVT) and the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC)—primarily composed of a team connected with the Cleveland County Health Department District 6—actively provide training and outreach under the auspices of a core facet of the Citizen Corps program known as CERT (the Community Emergency Response Training program). Importantly, members of these groups embrace the belief that when individuals are prepared communities tend to be better prepared and, hence, more resilient

and capable of recovering faster and more effectively in the aftermath of disasters and acts of terrorism.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution R-2526-25, which promotes continuing support of the CERT Citizen Corps program known as Norman Emergency Response Volunteers while also continuing to integrate guidance from a local Citizen Corps Council of relevant local stakeholders to provide strategic guidance pertaining to assuring residents and visitors to the City of Norman have the skills and knowledge to encourage preparedness and promote resilience.