

MEMO

TO: Mark Stevens, Mayor McFarland
FROM: Tanya Reynen
DATE: June 7, 2024
RE: Tornado Siren

During the tornado warning events this spring the Boughton Street siren failed to alarm. The department was first made aware of this in early May. On June 5, 2024, the siren maintenance company assessed all city sirens and found the Boughton Street siren completely out of service and beyond repair. This is the city's oldest siren at over 50 years old.

The Boughton Street area houses many low-income residents in high-population apartment complexes in Dodge County, which, along with Grant and Dane counties, has the highest number of tornado events on average in the state. With Wisconsin experiencing higher than average tornado activity and having already met its annual average, timely warnings are critical. While cellular notifications are an alternative, they average a 7-minute delay compared to sirens.

I strongly recommend securing additional funding in 2024 to replace the Boughton Street siren, ensuring the safety of our most vulnerable residents and preventing further delays. The cost of replacement and labor is estimated to be \$26,000.

Regular maintenance has been completed on the remaining sirens which included replacing four batteries, a screen and adding locks. We have not yet received the invoice; a 2024 budget of \$4,600 exists for Siren Maintenance.