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MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

For Release: April 19, 2019

City of Charleston Offices to Close at 2 p.m. due to Severe Weather Forecast

Charleston, S.C.--Due to the latest severe weather forecast from the National Weather Service, which includes the probability of high winds, city of Charleston offices, including recreation facilities and the municipal court, will close at 2 p.m. today. The early release does not apply to public safety employees or other personnel needed to provide essential City services.

City of Charleston Emergency Management Director Shannon Scaff said, "The safety of our citizens and employees is always our first priority. We urge everyone to stay tuned to local media for the latest weather forecast. The city's emergency management team and public safety officials, along with public service, stormwater, parks, traffic and transportation staff and others are prepared and ready to respond to the potential effects of the storm."

The Charleston Police Department will open a Public Safety Operation Center to manage the public safety response during and after the storm, as needed.

Although major flooding is not expected at this time, Public Service streets and sidewalks crews are assisting Stormwater department crews clearing out ditches and drains, as minor flooding in low-lying areas may occur.

Garbage and trash crews will suspend pickup at 1 p.m. today. Residents should secure their garbage carts and any other loose outdoor objects.

Parks department forestry trucks and equipment are fueled up and ready to respond.

Traffic and Transportation signal staff is on call to respond to flashing lights or outages. Please note, in the case of a power outage, traffic lights cannot be repaired until power is restored.

Outdoor city recreation activities scheduled for this afternoon and evening have been cancelled.

The Charleston County Bridge Procedures During High Winds document can be viewed here:
<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/emergency-management/files/bridgeprocedureshighwinds.pdf>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection will suspend Global Entry program interviews, which are taking place at the Charleston Gaillard Center, at 2 p.m. today. Applicants who have interviews affected by the early closure will receive a call from an agent inviting them to come early, as agents will work to fit in as many interviews before 2 p.m. as possible.

Useful numbers:

As always, in the case of an emergency call 9-1-1.

To report a downed tree or a traffic light that is out or flashing, call Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch at: 843-743-7200

To report a power outage, call SCE&G at 1-888-333-4465

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