INFORMAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

No. 23-0570

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

April 4, 2023

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SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM AVAILABLE FOR FORT WORTH RESIDENTS

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide an update on the Code Red emergency notification system which has been branded as Fort Worth Texas Alerts.

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) adopted a new emergency notification service CODE RED on February 1, 2020 which is operated by the Onsolve software company. This new system replaced the previous notification system called Nixle and has been customized with the brand name Fort Worth Texas Alerts.

Fort Worth Texas Alerts delivers time-sensitive safety and emergency alerts to Fort Worth residents. Residents can sign up at <u>www.fortworthtexas.gov</u> or there is an option to download the Code Red app to receive notification without signing up with Fort Worth Texas Alerts. Additionally, residents can sign up as a guest to start receiving alerts.

Once an account is created, there is an opportunity to select the preferred method of delivery: Voice, Text, Email. The two types of notifications subscribers will receive are Emergency and General, and there is a third notification offering if they choose to receive automated weather warning issued by the National Weather Service.

The system is only as good as the information the resident provides. If a cell phone, cell phone provider service, work phone, address or email address changes, residents will need to update their profile with the new contact information. For this reason, during the registration process, it is recommended that residents create a profile in order to go back to update contact information as needed. Please note, Office of Emergency Management staff does not have administrative rights to change or update residents accounts.

The alert notifications have been mainly used for weather related emergencies, it is also used to alert residents of Positive West Nile results, boil water notices, solid waste service updates, and road closures.

The Fort Worth Texas Alerts service has been advertised through marketing campaign ads on Trinity Metro buses and benches, water bill inserts, City Times, FWTV, City Website, local TV channels, social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Nextdoor. It also has been promoted through various community events such as Mayfest, City of Fort Worth Health & Safety Fair, Hispanic Health Fair, National Night Out events, community and neighborhood associations presentations and various police safety fairs.

Currently, Fort Worth Texas Alerts has the following total of subscriptions – 41,467:

Residential	Business	Email	SMS	Phone	TDD
10,454	558	4,212	12,520	13,481	242

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For questions regarding this information, please contact Robert Medford at (817) 392-6173 or <u>robert.medford@fortworthtexas.gov</u>.

David Cooke City Manager

ISSUED BY THE CITY MANAGER