



# CITY OF KENNER

## News Release

**E. "BEN" ZAHN III**  
MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Aug. 25, 2017**

## KENNER MAKING NECESSARY PREPARATIONS AS HURRICANE HARVEY APPROACHES TEXAS COAST

**Kenner, LA.** – Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn assured residents Friday the city is taking all necessary precautions in advance of Hurricane Harvey, which forecasters say has the potential to bring heavy rains to the area - the forecast now calls for 5 to 10 inches - after making landfall on Saturday in Texas.

Mayor Zahn said Kenner facilities, including the Pontchartrain Center - are already obligated to Entergy and the National Guard for immediate emergency response in our area, if needed, for the anticipated rain event. Harvey is about 60 miles east-southeast of Corpus Christi, Texas with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph. That makes Harvey a Category 3 hurricane.

After making landfall, the hurricane is then forecast to stall for several days, eventually moving to the east and northeast, perhaps reaching the southeast Texas/southwest Louisiana area by late Wednesday or Thursday. However, forecasters emphasized there is a great deal of uncertainty in the forecast, and even a slight change in the track could have a significant impact – for better or worse – on weather conditions in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

At this time, forecasters say heavy rain is the greatest threat for the metro area, with the heaviest of the rain expected between Sunday and Thursday of next week.

To prepare for the storm, crews from the Kenner Public Works Department began removing leaves and debris from storm drains throughout the city on Thursday, and that work is continuing throughout the day and into the weekend. Earlier today, that effort also involves the use of a heavy-duty vacuum truck to run a suction line down into the drains.

Residents are asked to check and clear out the drains near their homes before any storms move into the area. Residents needing assistance are asked to call (504) 468-7515.

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In addition, Mayor Zahn has authorized Kenner's Emergency Operations Center activated to Level 1, Active Monitoring, and that status will remain in place until further notice. Kenner Emergency Management is in regular contact with both Jefferson Parish officials and the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness regarding any local response to Hurricane Harvey. Mayor Zahn said the city is coordinating with parish officials to monitor canal levels and conditions, as well as pump stations, as required throughout the expected rain event.

Jefferson Parish officials, who announced Friday that the parish has issued an emergency declaration, report that all but 2 of the parish's 181 pumps are operational, and the east bank is at 99 percent pumping capacity.

Mayor Zahn, Emergency Management Director Doug Dodt, the chief of police and the Kenner City Council will continue to be a part of daily conference calls with forecasters from the National Weather Service through the weekend, and citywide staff briefings will be scheduled as needed.

Weather updates and other important information will be disseminated on the city's website and Facebook Page, as necessary.

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