

# HURRICANE AFTER ACTION REVIEW

Prepared for the

VENICE CITY COUNCIL

By the Citizens' Advisory Board

DRAFT – January 5, 2025

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The City of Venice experienced three tropical storms in rapid succession in August-September, 2024. The storms created wind and flooding that have never been seen here before, particularly in the coastal and low-lying areas. There was substantial property loss. Due to preparations by the city, there were no human casualties. However, in the aftermath of such destructive forces in such a short period of time and with the likelihood of future such storms, the City must assess how they performed before and afterwards to meet resident needs. The City is performing an assessment of their own operations. They have requested an assessment from the residents' point of view: what did they do well and what needs improvement in the future. Development of the Hurricane After Action Review (HAAR) has been assigned to the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB).

**Task objectives:** The CAB will identify what residents think the City of Venice did well and what should be improved in their preparations for and responses to Tropical Storm Debbie and Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

**Approach:** The CAB will take a stepwise approach to meet their study objective that is laid out in Table 1. The study results will be based on existing resources and new surveys of residents to help look at residents' perceptions of city operations. Resources will be identified to document how the City prepared residents for hurricanes and how the City responded to resident needs following the storms (Table 2). Surveys will be sent out to a broad cross-section of the city residents, businesses, and others who were affected by the storms to obtain their input about their experiences (Table 3). An online survey via SurveyMonkey (Table 4) will serve as the basis for information collection in a variety of formats (e.g., public meeting, targeted interviews, etc.). The CAB will take about 1 year to complete this assessment and present our results to the City Council.

## **Results:**

Table 5. Efforts to obtain resident input

Table 6. Survey results

## **Discussion:**

## **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

Table 1. Proposed schedule for the Citizen Advisory Board to produce the Hurricane After Action Review (HAAR) for the Venice City Council.		
MEETING DATE	TASK	CAB ASSIGNMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING
November 20, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign HAAR to CAB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop suggestions for approach to complete HAAR in 1 year</li> </ul>
December 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign lead</li> <li>Define HAAR objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft outline of HAAR report</li> <li>Draft list of potential target populations</li> <li>Draft questions for survey</li> <li>Obtain hurricane related resources from the City and elsewhere</li> </ul>
January 15, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review draft outline of HAAR report</li> <li>Create initial set of survey questions</li> <li>Present the hurricane related resources</li> <li>Assign target populations to CAB members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review hurricane related resources regarding information to be obtained in the survey from target populations</li> <li>Revise survey questions for target populations</li> <li>Identify how to reach target populations with the survey</li> </ul>
January 29 To be scheduled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize questions for the survey</li> <li>Finalize formats in which the survey will be distributed to target populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create survey</li> <li>Create database for compiling survey results</li> </ul>
February 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise survey</li> <li>Revise database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
March 5 To be scheduled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve survey for distribution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circulate survey</li> <li>CAB members ensure that target populations are reached</li> </ul>
March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public meeting for resident input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile responses</li> <li>Prepare status report for Council</li> </ul>
April 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present status report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refine recommendations to answer concerns identified in the survey</li> </ul>
May 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile concerns and recommendations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft final report</li> </ul>
June 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public meeting to review findings and draft report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise final report</li> </ul>

July 16	• Present final report	
August 20		
September 17		
October 15		
November 19		

Table 2. Hurricane related resources.	
Hurricane Preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate Change Resiliency study</li><li>• Community Response Criteria (Floodplain insurance)</li><li>• Hurricane Preparedness manual</li></ul>
After Storm Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building Dept interviews of HOA's</li><li>• City department HAAR meeting notes</li><li>• Storm response (Powerpoint presentation)</li><li>• Facebook/social media</li><li>• Gondolier articles</li><li>• Emails from residents to the city</li><li>• </li></ul>

Table 3. Target populations of city residents that were affected by the hurricanes and how they can be reached with the survey for their input.		
TARGET POPULATION	SURVEY FORMAT **	ADDITIONAL CONTACT ORGANIZATIONS
Homeowners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal</li> <li>• Low-lying areas</li> <li>• Manufactured homes</li> <li>• Older homes</li> </ul>	Online survey Public meetings	Home Owner Associations
Renters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term</li> <li>• Seasonal</li> </ul>	Online survey Public meetings Interviews	Rental management companies
Tourists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacation rentals</li> <li>• Hotels</li> <li>• Family guests</li> </ul>		Tourist board?
Business owners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotels</li> <li>• Restaurants</li> <li>• Grocery</li> <li>• Merchandise</li> </ul>		Chamber of Commerce Downtown Venice Association? US 41 Bypass Association?
Hospital		Hospital administration
Senior Care Facilities		Senior Fellowship Center Retirement home association?
Vulnerable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-income</li> <li>• Aged</li> <li>• Homeless</li> <li>• Handicapped</li> </ul>		Churches Service organizations County services Senior Fellowship Center
Natural areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks</li> <li>• Shorelines</li> <li>• Waterways</li> </ul>		Friends of parks County extension office Bay water quality monitor Coast Guard Marinas

Table 4. Sample survey questions for city residents.			
Identify target population	Homeowner Renter Business owner Vulnerable User of natural areas Tourist Other (explain: )		
	Before the storms	During the storms	After the storms
What went well with city services? (i.e., water supply, sanitation, emergency services, fire protection, debris management, communications, public safety, building department)			
What city services could be improved? How could they be improved?			
What other services could be improved? (e.g., county, state, federal, or power company)			

Table 5. Efforts to obtain resident input		
Format	Descriptions	# residents responding
Online survey		
Public meetings		
Targeted interviews		
Other		

Table 6. Sample survey results.			
Identify target population	Homeowner Renter Business owner Vulnerable User of natural areas Tourist Other (explain: )		
	Before the storms	During the storms	After the storms
What went well with city services? (i.e., water supply, sanitation, emergency services, fire protection, debris management, communications, public safety, building department)			
What city services could be improved? How could they be improved?			