

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Cassie Willis
City of Cedar Rapids Communications Liaison
Office (319)-286-5055 Cell: (319)-538-1058
c.willis@cedar-rapids.org



State of Iowa Disaster Ranks Fifth in US History

Cedar Rapids, IA – June 3, 2009 - As the City of Cedar Rapids prepares to commemorate the one year anniversary of the worst flooding disaster in its history, the entire State of Iowa faces a historical ranking of its own. So far, the floods and tornadoes that ravaged the state in 2008 caused \$1.1 billion in damage to public facilities. Based solely on financial public assistance estimates, that makes Iowa the fifth largest state disaster in US history behind Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, the 9/11 Terrorist Attack, Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi and Hurricane Wilma in Florida.

The Cedar River Flood of 2008 damaged 310 public facilities in Cedar Rapids, including the central police station, central fire station, city hall, public library, historic theater and public works building. City officials estimate that it will take \$500 million to repair and rebuild all of these facilities. Linn County, home to Cedar Rapids, lost its jail, courthouse, administrative offices and other public facilities to the flood, causing more than \$60 million in damage.

Please take a moment to go to the interactive website (www.cedarrapidsfloodstory.org), for statistics and important information.

###