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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 8, 2014

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Mayor Bernero Appoints Brigadier General Michael C. H. McDaniel to Lead Community Review Team; Requests Independent MPSC Review of Final Report and Recommendations

Deputy Fire Chief Trent Atkins, Police Chief Mike Yankowski to Lead Internal Review of City of Lansing's Storm Response

(LANSING) – Mayor Bernero today announced that Brigadier General (ret) Michael C. H. McDaniel will lead a Community Review Team (CRT) that will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the performance of the Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL) during the devastating ice storm that caused widespread power outages across the Capital region. The CRT will include members drawn from across the Lansing region, including subject matter experts in key areas of concern. The members of the group will be appointed by General McDaniel on a timeline that he will determine and announce at a later date.

General McDaniel previously served as Assistant Deputy Secretary for Homeland Defense Strategy, Force Planning and Mission Assurance at the U.S. Department of Defense. He has also served as Homeland Security Adviser to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and as Assistant Adjutant General for Homeland Security, Michigan National Guard. He holds a law degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the Army War College, and a Master of Arts in Security Studies (Homeland Security) from the Naval Postgraduate School.

“It is my privilege to serve the citizens of the Lansing region by leading an objective, comprehensive and transparent review of this matter,” McDaniel said. “The team we assemble to perform this analysis will review the full scope of the BWL response to the ice storm for the purpose of making specific recommendations for reforms and improvements that will serve and protect the community at-large if another such incident occurs in the future.”

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“General McDaniel is a man of enormous capabilities and unimpeachable integrity,” Mayor Bernero said. “He will bring military precision, a keen analytical mind and deep compassion for our community to this task. I cannot think of any individual who is more qualified to lead this review and I am deeply grateful to him for accepting this responsibility.”

Mayor Bernero also today formally requested that the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) conduct an independent review of the final report of the BWL’s internal review and the findings and recommendations of the CRT. In a letter to MPSC Chairman John D. Quackenbush, Mayor Bernero asked that the state agency conduct its review at the conclusion of the BWL internal review and the CRT review. All of the pertinent information related to the incident would already have been gathered and readily available to the MPSC, which would then conduct an independent review to determine if the analysis, findings and recommendations made by the BWL and CRT are consistent with best practices in the utility industry.

Mayor Bernero also announced that Deputy Fire Chief Trent Atkins and Police Chief Mike Yankowski will lead an internal review team to examine the City of Lansing’s response to the ice storm. An announcement concerning the members of that team and the timeline for their review will be made at a later date due to Chief Atkins and Chief Yankowski’s ongoing responsibilities in managing the city’s emergency response to the latest snow storm.

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