



Date: May 11, 2016

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
From: James Groves, Emergency Management Director
Subject: Durham County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Executive Summary

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee has completed an update to the Durham County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Update was conducted in coordination with the newly formed Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Update and the new Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan are in compliance with the Federal Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards resulting from the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Each plan is in effect for a period of five (5) years, after which it must be updated and readopted. This current update will be in effect through August 3, 2020.

Recommendation

To adopt a Resolution approving the 2016 Eno-Haw Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Background

The Eno-Haw Region is comprised of Alamance, Durham and Orange counties and all of the participating municipalities therein. The Eno and Haw rivers were identified as the threads that bound us together based upon the significance of their flowing waters but also because of the flooding hazard that they present.

Hazard Mitigation plans are required for compliance with the Federal Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards resulting from the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The Eno-Haw Region entered into the regional planning process at the behest of the State of North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM). In an effort to streamline the approval process for hundreds of required hazard mitigation plans, NCEM grouped jurisdictions together and offered contractors to lead the process and produce a single plan to be utilized by the region. Funded by the State of North Carolina and FEMA, this process allowed the planning group to renew the Hazard Mitigation Plan two years early and also provided a team of experienced mitigation planners to lead the city and county governments through the update and adoption process.

Once adopted by the City of Durham, the City will become an approved participating community eligible for mitigation grant programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), including:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

The types of hazards the plan is intended to address include flooding, chemical accidents, utility outages and severe weather. Broadly the plan discusses which agencies have responsibility for each of these hazard mitigation and response categories and what their capabilities and procedures are.

For the hazards in the city limits, the plan makes no changes compared to previous versions concerning which agencies assume primary responsibility for hazard mitigation and response.

- Severe weather preparedness and response is primarily a function of County Emergency Management, with coordination and support from the City of Durham.
- Flood and floodplain management is the domain of City/County Planning, Durham Housing Authority, and Public Works/Stormwater.
- Chemical accident hazards are assigned to the Durham Fire Department.
- Utility outage is assigned to City Public Works and County General Services.

Actions for each of these hazards and who is responsible is identified in each section of the plan.

Issues and Analysis

The update to the plan does not make any significant changes to existing roles, responsibilities or procedures. It is necessary to update and adopt the plan once every five years in order to maintain compliance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Alternatives

Council could decline to adopt the plan. Failure to adopt the plan will result in the City and its residents being ineligible to participate in several critical federal assistance and grant programs. Declining to adopt the plan update is therefore not recommended.

Attachments

(The entire Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan can be viewed online at: http://www.orangecountync.gov/departments/emergency_services/eno-haw_regional_hazard_mitigation_plan.php. The sections specific to Durham City and County are attached.)

- Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Section 7 - Mitigation Action Plans
 - City of Durham Mitigation Actions
 - Durham County Mitigation Actions
- Resolution of Adoption of the Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan