

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 17, 2022

To: William Fazioli, Planning and Development Director

From: Wayne Barnes, Executive Project Manager, Emergency Management Agency

Re: 2022 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan- Planning Department summary

The East Providence Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is a document outlining the City's capability to prepare for and mitigate the effects of natural hazards and disasters before they occur. Hazard Mitigation is defined as "sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards". A FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan that is less than five years old maintains our ability to apply for Federal hazard mitigation assistance grants, ensures that our residents can purchase Federally-backed flood insurance, and enables a discount on flood insurance for our policy holders.

The Plan demonstrates our awareness of hazard threats and vulnerabilities in East Providence, and proposes pro-active action items to mitigate the effects of those hazards and increase our resilience. It includes detailed descriptions of the natural hazards that can impact the City, including sea level rise and generalized climate change. The Plan also looks back at natural hazards during the previous five years and provides a progress report on hazard mitigation activities during that time period.

Action items during the upcoming five-year planning cycle as outlined in the new 2022 Plan include activities to protect life and property in our repetitive flood areas, a program of maintenance at the Turner Reservoir, ensuring continuity of City operations in the aftermath of a major disaster, increasing our capacity for major disaster storm sheltering, and mitigating coastal erosion and sea-level rise affects.

Input on Hazard Mitigation Planning was received from the Public via a natural hazard survey administered by the Planning Department, solicitation for public comment through the City Council and the City's website, and through the City's ongoing Comprehensive Plan Process. We also used our extensive experience with recent natural hazard events to inform our risks, vulnerabilities and potential actions. These events included: the 2010 Floods, Tropical Storm Irene, Hurricane Sandy, major snowstorms, and other large storms resulting in flooding, tree damage, and widespread power outages.

The City will maintain the Hazard Mitigation Plan throughout the upcoming five-year cycle by evaluating and updating action items, monitoring and keeping up with any new FEMA requirements, and ensuring that our hazard management policies and procedures are always current and up-to-date.

Thank you to the East Providence Planning Board for a positive recommendation to the Council regard Plan adoption; to the East Providence City Council for formally adopting the Plan, and to all stakeholders who helped to make this project a success!