

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Report to County Council – July 16, 2018

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On Sunday, May 27, 2018, extensive rainfall caused significant flooding throughout Howard County. The most significant flooding occurred in Ellicott City, with dangerous flash flooding in the Main Street area that necessitated over 300 swift water rescues. Approximately 7.5 inches of rain fell in 5 hours, the majority of which fell in a 3-hour period. In a 6-hour period from 4:00pm, the 911 Center received over 1100 calls. County Executive Kittleman signed an executive order declaring a local disaster for Howard County at 6:45pm and the Governor declared a State of Emergency shortly thereafter. The Local State of Emergency was extended by 30 days until July 30, 2018 on July 2, 2018.

This is the second significant flooding of Historic Ellicott City in two years. There are multiple roads that have been partially washed away, the Old Courthouse has been demolished, and there was massive damage to streets, sidewalks, and buildings.

## Presidential Declaration

On Tuesday July 2, FEMA issued an approved Presidential Declaration to the State of Maryland triggering the release of Federal funds to help communities recover from the Sever Storm and Flooding that occurred May 27-28 (FEMA-4376\_DR). This Declaration authorizes Public Assistance funding for Howard County at a 75%/25% cost share.

The FEMA Public Assistance Kick Off Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, July 20, 2018.

## Perimeter

The secure zone remains on lower Main Street east of Old Columbia Pike and west of Maryland Avenue. Upper Main Street was re-opened to two-way traffic on June 19, 2018. As of July 3, 2018, two-way traffic is permitted within the secure zone for authorized vehicles. There is no through-traffic permitted on lower Main Street.

Residents of Main Street properties within the secure zone may re-occupy their homes. Before re-occupancy can be allowed, the residence must be deemed safe for occupancy by the Department of Inspections, Licensing, and Permits and by the Department of Fire and Rescue Services. All necessary utilities (water, sewer, electric) to the building must be restored. Gas does not need to be restored prior to occupancy. Residents are required to sign a re-occupancy agreement. Returning residents are required to obtain and display Howard County government-issued credentials.

Parking on Main Street between Old Columbia Pike and Maryland Avenue is allowed on the south side only, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Vehicles will be limited to one vehicle per address, no longer than 15 feet, and no trailers will be allowed. Business owners are

encouraged to use street parking for contractors and they are encouraged to use the parking lots for their personal vehicles. If a parking space is not available, contractors will be allowed to park on the NORTH side of the street for 15 minutes to drop-off equipment and supplies, but then must move their vehicles to parking lots. EDA has been working with business/property owners on a case by case basis with any additional parking needs.

Main Street was re-opened Tuesday, June 19, 2018 to two-way traffic west of Old Columbia Pike and east of Maryland Avenue. Vehicles traveling west on Frederick Road from Baltimore County are able to cross the Patapsco River Bridge and turn left onto Maryland Avenue to access St. Paul Street and College Avenue. New Cut Road remains closed to through-traffic due to flood damage.

Effective Tuesday, July 3, two-way traffic was permitted in the secure zone (lower Main Street) for authorized vehicles only.

## Information Management

- The (410) 313-2900 line was converted to a recorded message full-time beginning on July 13<sup>th</sup> due to very limited demand, but the general government number will remain open at (410) 313-2022 to assist with any needs.
- Once the road re-opens, staff will convert the website page from a response to long-term recovery layout.
- We continue to solicit and receive photos and videos through the public portal.

## Community Planning

### Department of Planning and Zoning

- Finalizing a revised draft scope and fee for the Master Plan restart with Mahan Rykiel.
- Working on plans for public meetings in late summer/early fall, including Master Plan Advisory Team and public workshops.
- Planning to send a constant contact email blast shortly to the master plan list to advise everyone of the restart of the master plan process and provide general updates.

### Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits

- DILP developed a one-pager on Howard County Code Requirements for Flood-proofing Structures within the Floodplain and has been distributed to property owners.
- Appointments continue to be scheduled by Constituent services involving, DILP, Constituent Services, EDA, HCPD, and DFRS were part of a multi-function group conducting an on-site walk through to evaluate which buildings could be reoccupied.
- DILP continues to work with DFRS and Constituent Services to inspect residential buildings upon tenant request. All buildings must have working water, and electric in order to pass inspection.
- The resident footprint for inspections is from Maryland Ave to Old Columbia Pike. However, residents outside that area who have requested inspections have been accommodated.
- DILP, along with Public Information, DPZ and the Health Department, has developed a one-page informational sheet detailing the process for scheduling plan review appointments to obtain permits to repair flood damage.

- DILP, along with Health, and DPZ, have met with a number of building owners and have issued permits to begin the reconstruction. At this time, we have met with 6 owners and have issued 5 permits on the same day.

## Infrastructure Recovery Process

### Public Works and Engineering

- **Environmental Services**
  - 15 roll-offs still on site
  - 178 roll-off loads have been emptied
  - Over 5,600 tons of debris received at Alpha Ridge Landfill
  - An additional 718.35 tons have been delivered to the Waste Management Annapolis Junction Transfer Station
  - Staff are monitoring the roll-offs and adjusting their location as a result of residents/business owners requests
  - Roll-offs are being emptied 6 days a week
- **Potable Water**
  - Approximately 100 feet of water main needs to be replaced at New Cut Road.. The contractor has visited the site and provided repair suggestions. There will a meeting on Tuesday, July 17th to discuss scheduling.
  - Repairs can begin once the contractor is able to come out. Repairs will take 3-4 weeks once the contractor begins.
- **Wastewater/Sewer**
  - All water service work had been completed for residential and commercial properties.
  - There are 5 sewer connections that need to have the roots removed that will be addressed on Thursday and Friday of this week.
  - On July 12th crew replaced the division valve at the intersection of Park Avenue and Court Place. As a result of this work, high water pressures are no longer occurring at Merryman, Main, Church and Hill. Many thanks go out to the staff that investigated this problem and replaced two division valves to resolve the issue.
- **Gas**
  - Of the 280 affected gas customers, gas is now available to all customers in Historic Ellicott City.
- **Electric**
  - As of Thursday, June 21, 2018, of the 454 outages in Historic Ellicott City, service has been restored to 405 customers (89%). Fifty-nine (49) customers are without electric service on Main Street.
- **Stormwater Management**
  - Continuing to respond to drainage complaints throughout the County.

- Currently addressing several previous project sites throughout the County that were damaged by the flood and require remedial work.
  - Continuing to monitor river levels and rain gauges when rain is forecasted.
  - Ellicott Mills Drive – Working with consultant and contractor to develop a design for the new culvert and then reconstruction of the road.
  - New Cut Road – Working with consultant to develop a design approach for the stabilization of the two major slope failures on the lower end of New Cut Branch, adjacent to New Cut Road.
- **Roads – Closed Roadways – Status as of June 29**
    - New Cut Rd                      From: Hillsborough                      To: St. Paul’s Street
    - Main Street                      From: Old Columbia Pk                      To: Maryland Ave
    - Ellicott Mills Dr                      From: Fels Ln                      To: Main St
    - Tiber Alley                      From: Main Street                      To: Maryland Avenue
    - Hamilton Street                      From: Main Street                      To: Forrest Street

## Economic Recovery

- First HOT Team Meeting was held June 15, 2018 and continues to occur every Friday.
- State resources for job opportunities and employment assistance were at the DAC and continue to be available virtually.
- Continuing to support micro-missions.
- Advising businesses to have personal evacuation plans in the event of flood watches and flood warnings.
- Staff continues to work very closely with businesses in the secure zone so that they have the resources they need to recover in an expeditious fashion.

## Health, Housing, and Human Services

### Volunteer Management

- ESF14 has been operating the same and accepting request for volunteers from residents and business owners. We were able to fill all requests for volunteers that have been submitted thus far.
- The last request for volunteers was submitted on July 4th and there are no outstanding requests for volunteers.
- ESF14 will start to shut down completely if there is no longer a need for volunteers.

### MD VOAD

- MD VOAD are using CrisisCleanup.org (CC) to organize a database of survivor's properties that were damaged in the 2018 floods. The regions included in this database are Frederick Co, Washington Co, Howard Co, Baltimore, Co, and Baltimore City.
- On July 28, 2018, VOAD will undertake a region-wide canvassing effort stretching from W. Baltimore to Route 40 in Ellicott City to address properties not yet handled by volunteer efforts.
- Any groups interested in volunteering should be put in contact with Jessie at MDVOAD. His contact information is jessie.florida@gmail.com or (443) 494-9406. THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE USED FOR THIS EVENT ONLY.

- If anyone has any information regarding neighborhoods or streets that have yet to be reached by volunteer efforts, please let Jessie know.

### **Disaster Assistance Center**

- The DAC demobilized as a physical location on June 8, 2018 at 1700. The DAC has reverted to a virtual DAC.
- As of June 22, 2018, the DAC has had a total of 288 encounters, please note that one encounter may include an entire family or group of people living together.

### **Housing**

- Residents were notified that June 26<sup>th</sup> was the last day that the County would reimburse Grassroots for hotel stays so residents are responsible for any charges after that date.
- The Department provided a list of 9 rental communities with available units to displaced residents. All rental communities will offer 3-month lease terms, waive the security deposit and accept rent payments from the State's Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) program. The list was also posted on the County's website.
- The State has approved 40 HAP applications and 15 residents have signed leases. 16 residents are currently searching for apartments.
- Residents may not use HAP funds if they return to their former apartments.
- The re-occupancy policy for Main Street was posted to the County's website on June 21<sup>st</sup> to provide information to landlords and tenants.
- Residents should contact their landlords regarding their plans for returning to Main Street. Landlord/tenant concerns should be directed to the County's Office of Consumer Protection at 410-313-6420

### **Public Health**

- River House Pizza opened on June 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Pure Wine opened on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ellicott Mills Brewing Co. opened on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Tersiguel's, Phoenix and Georgia Grace were approved for rebuild last week. Within 2-3 weeks after finishing construction they can schedule an inspection. Additionally, Portalli's was approved for rebuild on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Information on mold was distributed at Town Hall and is on the HCHD website. PIO continue to post info on mold and reposts any information the County PIO posts.
- No mental health updates.
- For mental health questions contact Shereen Cabrera-Bentley from the Bureau of Behavioral Health at [scabrera@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:scabrera@howardcountymd.gov).

## Safety and Security

- Security officers from MWR are staffing 5 posts (9 personnel (during the day and 2 posts (4 personnel) at night.
- Four officers (includes a supervisor) are working a security detail on 12-hour shifts.

