

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2013 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 2

Resolution No. 22 -2013

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION adopting the Howard County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Introduced and read first time February 4, 2013.

By order Stephen LeGendre
Stephen LeGendre, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on February 19, 2013.

By order Stephen LeGendre
Stephen LeGendre, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn___, by the County Council
on march 4, 2013.

Certified By Stephen LeGendre
Stephen LeGendre, Administrator

NOTE: text in strike-out indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Double strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, recognizes that natural
2 hazards are common occurrences throughout the region and cause significant property damage
3 and loss of life; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, by passage of County Council Resolution No. 112-2004, the County took
6 proactive measures to reduce the impact of these hazards by adopting the first Natural Hazards
7 Mitigation Plan (NHMP); and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the County remains committed to the mitigation of natural hazards through
10 the concerted efforts of Howard County departments, government partners, and community
11 members; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) received
14 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funds to revise the NHMP and that
15 grant, along with in-kind grant funds from the County, enabled the County to complete the plan
16 update; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, OEM and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Update Steering Committee have
19 updated the NHMP consistent with a federally mandated planning process; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the NHMP articulates a comprehensive strategy for implementing
22 technically feasible mitigation activities for the area affected by natural hazards; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, adoption of the NHMP will make the County eligible for future Federal and
25 State grants to implement the NHMP's recommendations, if and when funds become available;
26 and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the County Executive recommends that the NHMP be adopted by the
29 County Council.
30

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
2 Maryland this 4th day of March 2013 that the effort to become more disaster
3 resistant is deemed worthy of support, and that the Howard County Natural Hazards Mitigation
4 Plan prepared by the Howard County Office of Emergency Management, attached and
5 incorporated by reference, is adopted.



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 • (410) 313-6030

To: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: William F. Goddard, III *John S. Butler*
Fire / EMS Chief

Date: January 22, 2013

Subject: Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

An important aspect of emergency management is hazard mitigation. Hazard mitigation is by definition an attempt to reduce or eliminate the threat or the potential damages or loss of life from hazardous events. More importantly, well thought out mitigation planning has the potential to produce long-term, recurring benefits as it can break the cycle of repetitive loss caused by natural disasters. One of the key aspects of mitigation planning efforts is that dollars spent on mitigation today will significantly reduce the demand for future dollars by lessening the need for emergency response, recovery, repair, and reconstruction.

The Howard County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) represents the county's effort to reduce vulnerabilities and lessen overall losses caused by natural hazards. The adoption of the NHMP is crucial for several reasons. It is well known that natural disasters (such as floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes) affect all segments of the communities they strike, including individuals, businesses, and public services such as fire, police, utilities, and schools. However, hazard mitigation planning can help diminish the damage caused by such events by minimizing the impact of natural hazards upon our built and natural environments. The plan has provided Howard County with the opportunity to develop, enhance, and strengthen local mitigation measures already in place and to formulate additional actions. The adoption of the mitigation plan represents the County Council's commitment to lessening the impact of natural hazard events.

Moreover, the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000¹ requires counties around the nation to develop Natural Hazards Mitigation plans in order to be eligible for Federal hazard mitigation grant funds. The NHMP developed by the Department of Fire and Rescue Services – Office of Emergency Management, was designed to meet the prerequisite for obtaining funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan seeks to both guide Howard County mitigation projects, as well as the spending of any disaster mitigation funds received by the county. The following resolution humbly requests the Howard County Council to adopt this mitigation plan.

¹ 42 U.S.C. § 5165 *et seq.* See also 44 C.F.R. § 201 *et seq.*

