Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 169-2023
Introduced: October 2, 2023

Auditor: Rebecca Gold

Fiscal Impact:

There will not be any direct fiscal impact resulting from this legislation. The Administrator of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) indicated that the County will be eligible to apply for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant funding if this legislation is approved. The amount of grant revenues is unknown, as grant approvals and awards are subject to change from year to year.

This resolution does not commit the County to any future spending. Any new appropriations would be approved by the Council in a future budget cycle.

According to the OEM, the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) includes three action items that may require more appropriations than what the County can provide in the future:

Mitigation Action	Project	Estimated Cost in the NHMP
Flood mitigation for Historic Ellicott City	C0337	$200 million
Flood risk mitigation improvements at the Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant	Likely S6602	TBD: Project is in early stages
Water main construction along U.S. Route 29	New	$15 – $18 million

The OEM anticipates that other actions recommended by the NHMP can be implemented using existing appropriations and staffing.

Purpose:

Council Resolution 169-2023 proposes the adoption of the Howard County NHMP. Adoption of this plan makes the County eligible to apply for certain Federal and State grant funding.

<u>Other Comments:</u>

According to the OEM, the County previously applied for the following HMA grant funding and anticipates that approval of this resolution will guarantee the County's continued eligibility for these grants:

- Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- Flood Mitigation Assistance

The plan requires that the OEM provide an annual report to the County that tracks the status of each County mitigation project. The OEM has indicated it would be willing to share this report with the Council if requested.