

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: NEW HAVEN NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FIVE YEAR UPDATE, Final Adoption (City Plan Department)
REPORT: 1528-18
ACTION: Communicate report to the Board of Alders, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

BACKGROUND

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 mandates every municipality to prepare and update Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs) at least once every five years. Completing an HMP makes a city eligible for FEMA grants, such as the pre and post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grants. The post-disaster grants are especially important to the City of New Haven, as it has shorefronts and low-lying areas that are particularly vulnerable to being damaged during natural disasters. Most recently, the City entered FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program, which offers flood insurance premium discounts based on insurance agent ratings. FEMA's insurance agents visit the city to review necessary paperwork annually. An updated and officially adopted HMP is therefore mandatory to maintain good standing with this program and to be eligible to apply for all mitigation grants administered by FEMA.

The draft HMP Update II document was reviewed by the State Department of Hazard Mitigation Services and FEMA and an approval pending adoption letter was sent to the city on March 13, 2017. With this approval, the jurisdiction meets the local mitigation planning requirements under Section 44 CFR 201 of the Federal Regulations for Mitigation Planning. If this document is not adopted within one calendar year of FEMA's conditional approval, the jurisdiction must update the entire plan and resubmit it for FEMA review.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Within the HMP Update II document, the City is pleased to report that most of the projects detailed in the first update have been either completed or currently on progress. These projects and the priority projects for the next five years are highlighted on the enclosed maps. The approximate budget, anticipated timeline, and the name of the administering agency are also listed for each of these projects in the enclosed matrix.

Every recommendation of the plan must be implemented by the City departments that oversee these activities. While preparing this update, the Planning Department staff met with representatives from the Engineering Department, Department of Public Works, Office of Emergency Management, Parks and Recreation, and Economic Development Administration, all of whom share responsibility for implementing selected projects. A survey was also made available for the residents for a period of two months to gather their input. Planning Department staff attended Community Management Team (CMT) meetings in coastal areas of the city to identify planning issues from residents in these areas and gather their input.

The proposed mitigation projects are typically included in the City's Capital Improvement Program based on their priority. For major infrastructure projects, when funding becomes available, the residents in the neighboring area are notified about the proposed mitigation activity either through a public

meeting or through a notice in the local newspaper. Once the comment and review period is closed, these mitigation activities are implemented. All major infrastructure projects and projects proposed on wetlands or in coastal area go through the City Plan Commission (CPC) review process before they are implemented.

Therefore, the staff recommends that the CPC adopt the second update to the City's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan by the attached resolution. Once FEMA review is completed, no additional comments can be incorporated into the Plan document. Any feedback provided during the final adoption meeting could be incorporated into future updates.

ACTION

Adopt the document and communicate report to Board of Alders, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ADOPTED: March 23, 2017
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADOPTING THE NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE FOR NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 encourages communities to prepare a Hazard Mitigation Plan for natural disasters, such as a hurricane or flood; and

WHEREAS, given the personal and financial severity of recent national disasters, the City of New Haven has been working to understand local conditions and plan accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the plan is to reduce the loss of or damage to life, property, infrastructure, and natural, cultural and economic resources from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update re-evaluates the mitigation goals and alternatives for the next five years; assesses the work accomplished since 2011 based on the strategy outlined in the previous plan; and frames the recommendations for the next five years, along with a strategy for implementation.

WHEREAS, the City is pleased to report that most of the projects detailed in the 2011 report have been completed and new mitigation projects have been proposed within HMP Update II.

WHEREAS, the staff of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State Department of Hazard Mitigation Services (DHS) reviewed the document and offered an approval pending city adoption letter.

WHEREAS, the adoption of the plan is mandatory to maintain good standing with FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program and apply for any new pre-/post-disaster grants that may become available.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Plan Commission of the City of New Haven that the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is hereby finally adopted as an official plan of the City of New Haven; that the Chief Administrator's Office, the Building Department and the City Plan Department shall collaborate to implement the plan; and that these departments will report regularly on their activities, accomplishments, and progress to the City Plan Commission, Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen.

ADOPTED: March 23, 2017
Edward Mattison
Chair, City Plan Commission

ATTEST: 
Karyn Gilvarg, AIA
City Plan Director