

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #16: HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING UPDATE

SUBJECT:

Updates are being prepared for the Hazard Mitigation Plans for the Cities of Franklin, Portsmouth, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach and the Counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton.

BACKGROUND:

The HRPDC staff, in coordination with the Southside/Southampton/Franklin (SS/SH/FR) Hazard Mitigation Planning Committees (HMPC) which includes staff representatives from the Cities of Franklin, Portsmouth, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach along with the Counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton, is in the process of updating the Southside Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan, City of Franklin All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, and Southampton County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The updates have involved an evaluation and adjustment of the regional profiles, the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA), and the vulnerability assessment. The next step in this process is the most critical in that mitigation strategies will be updated and/or changed to reflect regional and locality mitigation specific goals and objectives to better prepare Hampton Roads for the risks associated with the hazards addressed in the plan.

Multiple Hazard Mitigation Plans (South Hampton Roads, Southampton County, and Franklin) were originally created as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. In order for communities to remain eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program, various federal funding for mitigation activities, and funding from disaster declarations, all plans are reviewed and updated every 5 years. The updates involve an evaluation and revision of the planning process, capability assessment, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA), vulnerability assessment, a review, update, and/or creation of the goals and objectives, and development of the mitigation action plan.

To ensure jurisdictional mitigation strategies are updated and/or changed to reflect regional and locality mitigation specific goals and objectives to better prepare Hampton Roads for the risks associated with the hazards addressed in the plan, we ask that your staff participate as much as possible in the next couple of months. In addition to the Emergency Management Coordinator, Staff recommends the following types of staff participate:

- Public Safety officials, Planning department staff, the Community Rating System Coordinator or potential Coordinator, Building officials, Zoning officials, Public Works officials, Finance/Procurement/Budget office staff, Assessor's office representatives, Parks & Recreation staff, GIS staff, School Board members, Engineering staff, Public Information staff, Public Health officials, and Elected Officials.

HRPDC Emergency Management Administrator Richard Flannery will provide an overview on the current status of this planning initiative and the need for widespread local government participation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Encourage participation by staff from local government organizations, as described in the Background in the ongoing Hazard Mitigation Plans.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

The Hazard Mitigation Plans are not just emergency management plans. These plans cross multiple disciplines and departments in the city/county and provide a tool to assist communities in reducing risk and vulnerabilities to hazards.