



Memorandum

To: Members of Safety & Public Works

From: Patrick F. Sweeney, Chief of Fire

Cc: David E. Weiss, Mayor
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: March 3, 2023

Re: Adoption of Updated Cuyahoga County All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that local communities develop a hazard mitigation plan with specific goals and objectives for the mitigation of natural disasters. Cuyahoga County has developed and adopted an All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan which has been previously approved by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Adoption of this plan by the City of Shaker Heights is necessary to expedite eligibility for Federal Disaster mitigation funding should a natural disaster occur in our community.

Hazard mitigation is any sustainable action taken to reduce or eliminate damage from future disasters. As part of the Hazard Mitigation planning process, communities in Cuyahoga County completed a Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (HIRA). The intent of the HIRA is to identify, as much as practicable, the vulnerabilities of the community, measure the probability of those hazards occurring, and identify mitigation measures to minimize the impact on the community. The results of the risk assessment provide a framework for a better understanding of potential impacts on the community and a foundation on which to develop and prioritize mitigation actions.

Examples of hazard vulnerabilities include the potential for Severe Storms and Health Related Emergencies. Mitigation efforts that Shaker Heights uses to minimize the impact of these hazards include the use of the County's Ready Notify System to provide emergency communications to residents. The City of Shaker Heights also utilizes the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to assist the fire department during times of high call volumes due to storms. Additionally, a partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health Department to use the Shaker Heights Fire Department as a point of distribution for emergency medications aids in minimizing the impact of health-related emergencies on the well-being of the residents and emergency workers in Shaker Heights.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all communities that desire to apply for federal mitigation programs to have an all-natural hazard mitigation plan. It also requires communities to review and revise the plan at least every five (5) years to reflect changes in development, progress in local

mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities, in order to continue eligibility to apply for federal mitigation programs.

The all-natural hazard mitigation plan must meet the criteria established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for disasters that are declared after November 1, 2004. Additionally, the local government must have an approved mitigation plan. A collaborative initiative with the Cuyahoga County Government, through the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management and communities within Cuyahoga County, has developed a mitigation plan which is entitled the "Countywide All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for Cuyahoga County". However, to utilize this mitigation plan, the City of Shaker Heights must enact legislation adopting the "Countywide All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for Cuyahoga County."

The original resolution to adapt the All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan was passed by Council on March 29, 2004, and is Ordinance No. 04-24. This plan has continually been updated by the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management and subsequently adopted by Council.

The Fire Department recommends that The Safety and Public Works Committee re-adopt the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. This will result in expedited eligibility for federal disaster mitigation funding should a natural disaster occur within the Shaker Heights boundaries. It is also requested that Safety and Public Works recommend the same to The Shaker Heights City Council.