

## **NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ACTION**

**RE:** NEW HAVEN MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FIVE YEAR UPDATE, Final Adoption (City Plan Department)

**REPORT:** 1453-21

**ACTION:** Communicate report to the Board of Aldermen, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and Federal Emergency Management Agency

### **BACKGROUND**

The draft of the five year update to the 2005 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was approved by the City Plan Commission in August 2010 (CPC Report No.1443-05). Following this, the document was sent to the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and final approval. DEP and FEMA representatives carefully reviewed this document and suggested a few changes to be made within the document and the appendices (Appendix B). These changes are highlighted in red font within the final copy that is enclosed along with this report.

After reviewing these changes, FEMA staff sent a letter of conditional approval to the City staff stating that FEMA Region I has completed its review of the New Haven, CT Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan five year update and found it approvable pending final adoption by the city. With this approval, the jurisdiction meets the local mitigation planning requirements under Section 44 CFR 201 of the Federal Regulations for Mitigation Planning. The FEMA letter of formal approval will confirm the City's eligibility to apply for Mitigation grants administered by FEMA and identify related issues affecting eligibility, if any. If the plan 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.

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. In order to continue its eligibility, the City must complete and submit an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan to FEMA every five years and submit an annual report to the City Plan Commission detailing projects, developments and infrastructure that were undertaken in order to maintain our eligibility for the grants.

If the plan is approved by FEMA, the City also becomes eligible to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), which is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. For CRS participating communities, flood insurance premiums are discounted in increments of 5% based on the credit points received under 18 creditable activities. These activities are categorized under four broad categories: public information, mapping and regulations, flood damage reduction, and flood preparedness.

### **PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

In the 2010 HMP Update document, the City is pleased to report that most of the projects detailed in the 2005 report have been completed and the current and priority projects for the next five years are listed. The approximate budget, anticipated timeline, and the name of the administering agency are also listed for each of these projects (See Chapter I of the document).

As individual recommendations of the plan are implemented, they must be implemented by the City departments that oversee these activities. The Engineering Department, Department of Public Works, and Office of Emergency Management will be primarily responsible for implementing selected

projects. These 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 review process before they are implemented.

**ACTION:** Communicate Report to Board of Aldermen, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and Federal Emergency Management Agency

**ADOPTED:** June 15, 2010  
Roy Smith, Jr.  
Vice Chair

**ATTEST:**   
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA  
Executive Director