

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

98-374

SYNOPSIS –

AGENDA:
AUGUST 24, 1998

As a result of the June 18, 1998, rainfall and subsequent flooding and declaration of Polk County as a national disaster area, City staff has been working with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on a wide range of damage and mitigation projects to determine eligibility for federal funding.

SUBJECT:

STATE OF IOWA
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
DIVISION HAZARD
MITIGATION
GRANT
APPLICATION FOR
FLOOD
MITIGATION

In order to provide an overland corridor for runoff, certain properties have been identified to be purchased and the structures removed to mitigate future flooding.

TYPE:
**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

FISCAL IMPACT –

75% State and Federal — \$1,726,466.25
25% Local — \$ 575,588.75

SUBMITTED BY:
HAROLD SMITH
CITY ENGINEER

RECOMMENDATION –

Authorization of local funding and the City Manager to execute the Hazard Mitigation Grant Application.

BACKGROUND –

The intensity of the rain event in June of 1998 caused flooding of numerous properties citywide from overland flows. Many of the properties experienced flooding for the first time while others were impacted by a greater magnitude of flooding than they had experienced in the past. The residences which have experienced the most frequent repetitive flooding were the subject of a report on the storm and sanitary sewer system in January 1998, in which known citywide storm drainage improvement projects were identified and prioritized. As a part of the identification of these needed improvements, many of the areas where the overland corridor for runoff is most restricted were analyzed, some of which have been the subject of major

watershed flood studies including Closes Creek and the Seventh Ward Ditch. However, many other overland corridors remain to be studied in detail.

Within the guidelines established by FEMA and estimates of mitigation federal dollars that might become available for the eight (8) county disaster areas in Iowa, staff has attempted to identify those properties that might have the best chance of eligibility for a buyout mitigation effort. It is now timely that a grant application be submitted for this effort.

The properties that are included in the Iowa Emergency Management Division Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application are properties that have been identified in the City Stormwater Utility needs analysis. The purchase and removal of these properties would open up the overland corridor for excessive runoff and help to mitigate flood damage to other properties in the entire watershed.

Based on notice of eligibility for this program, each of the property owners would be notified and an informational meeting would be scheduled. This program would be strictly voluntary and at the discretion of the property owners. It is however an effort by the City to offer these residents an opportunity to be relocated from serious flood-prone areas of the City.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING GRANT:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Iowa Emergency Management Division have implemented regulations which require Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation planning be completed in order for communities to remain eligible for future disaster recovery, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding. The State Emergency Management Division has made available to Polk County, a grant to fund a \$120,000 Hazard Mitigation Planning Program. This grant requires a \$60,000 (50%) local match over 3-years (\$20,000 per year). To date, Polk County has not funded the local match for the communities and unincorporated areas of Polk County.

In order to remain eligible for future grant funding, it is proposed the City fund the first year of the grant which will begin the planning process for the City.

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