

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> September 8, 2014
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 32 <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>14-1388</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>14-430</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approval of ordinance amending Chapter 50 - Floodplain Development Regulations.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Amend Chapter 50 of the City Code to include recently approved Warren County flood insurance rate maps, which cover some areas in the City of Des Moines, as well as recommendations from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**FISCAL IMPACT: NONE**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to help provide a means for property owners to financially protect themselves from flood damage. The NFIP offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters, and business owners if their community participates in the NFIP. Participating communities are required to adopt and enforce ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding. The City of Des Moines has participated in NFIP since 1974.

The IDNR works with FEMA to ensure that participating Iowa communities comply with current requirements. The City received a letter from FEMA dated April 16, 2014, informing that the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps for portions of Warren County within the Des Moines corporate limits are final and that these maps will become effective on October 16, 2014. As a result, the City's floodplain development regulations must be updated to reference the new maps prior to the effective date of October 16, 2014. Failure to do so may result in the City being suspended from the NFIP. IDNR and FEMA staff have also notified the City of additional recommended text amendments, included in this amendment, to better match their sample language and to comply with the minimum requirements for continued participation in the NFIP.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

New Polk County Flood Insurance Rate Maps are anticipated to become effective in 2016, which will require an additional amendment to Chapter 50.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).