



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Bruce K. Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, AICP, City Planner/Director

DATE: June 16, 2005

SUBJECT: Plan Case No. 1912-CP-04: Adoption of a proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan as an Amendment to the Urbana Comprehensive Plan.

Description

Staff is requesting Council review and adoption of a proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan as an Amendment to the Urbana Comprehensive Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and is consistent with the National Mitigation Strategy developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It has been previously reviewed by the City's Project Impact Steering Committee, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, and Plan Commission.

The Plan has been reviewed by FEMA and by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and has been determined to meet the required criteria, thereby gaining official approval from FEMA. According to FEMA Guidelines, final approval of the Plan by the City of Urbana is now appropriate.

Formal adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan by the City of Urbana will make the City eligible for mitigation grant funds for the next five years, at which time an updated plan will need to be submitted for approval. The Plan will also make the City eligible for pre-disaster mitigation grants, on a competitive basis. Communities that do not have a Hazard Mitigation Plan in place may receive disaster mitigation funds, but only contingent upon completion of a Plan. By adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the City will be better prepared to receive immediate funding assistance from FEMA in the event of a disaster.

Additional work on the Plan will be necessary to make the City eligible for additional Flood Mitigation Assistance approval. In consultation with FEMA and IEMA, City staff have decided to proceed with the Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented herein and to continue to work on gaining eligibility for flood mitigation assistance as a separate endeavor.

Issues

The issue is whether to adopt the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan as an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Please refer to the Case Memorandum to the Plan Commission dated June 9, 2005 for additional discussion of issues. A copy of the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan, as approved by FEMA, was included in the Plan Commission packets for their meeting on June 16, 2005.

Background

A draft version of the Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared in 2001-2002 by Anna Lee and Shubha Shrivastava, two students in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois, working under the direction of Professor Robert Olshansky and former Urbana Building Safety Division Manager Craig Grant. The work was funded by a larger grant from FEMA to the City which encompassed a number of disaster relief activities, known as "Project Impact".

The first Draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan was reviewed by the Project Impact Steering Committee and by the City's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. In addition, pre-review by FEMA and IEMA staff occurred and extensive comments were submitted. Revisions to the report were completed in 2003-2004 by Planning Intern Lauren Kerestes and City Planner Libby Tyler. In 2004, FEMA and IEMA completed a second review of the Plan. Formal approval of the document was granted on May 4, 2005. A study session on the Hazard Mitigation Plan was held by the Plan Commission on May 5, 2005. A public hearing before the Plan Commission is to be held on June 16, 2005.

Concurrent with preparation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, City staff completed the Urbana Comprehensive Plan Update. This document was adopted on April 11, 2005. The Comprehensive Plan references the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Description of Plan

The Hazard Mitigation Plan includes information on the community background as it pertains to natural hazards, with discussion of geographical features, land use patterns, critical community services, and development trends. The Hazard Assessment portion of the document addresses the following specific hazards that affect Urbana: tornadoes and windstorms; winter storms and ice storms; floods; and earthquake. This section addresses the three significant events of the 1996 tornado, 1990 ice storm, and 1990 flood that resulted in major damages in Urbana. Earthquake has only resulted in minor damages, with the latest major event occurring in 1987.

Chapter IV identifies a number of mitigation strategies to address these specific hazards, such as power supply management, wind resistant construction, construction of shelters, relocation of mobile homes, transfer of development rights, capital improvements, seismic resistance codes, support for critical facilities, and public education and awareness strategies.

Chapter V comprises an Action Plan which identifies 15 concrete action steps, assigns priorities, and notes the responsible agencies. The Action Plan items are summarized in Figure 5.1, a copy of which is attached. The Plan includes provisions for an annual review and for a five-year update. Updates are also required when a disaster occurs in a community.

Summary of Findings

1. The proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and is consistent with the National Mitigation Strategy developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
2. The proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan has been reviewed by FEMA and by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and has been determined to meet the required criteria, thereby gaining official approval from FEMA.
3. Adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan by the City of Urbana will better prepare the City to receive immediate funding assistance from FEMA in the event of a disaster. The Plan will also allow the City to pursue pre-disaster mitigation funds.
4. The proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan is consistent with the recently adopted Urbana Comprehensive Plan, which calls for its adoption as an implementation strategy.

Options

The City Council has the following options in Plan Case 1912-CP-04:

- a. Adopt an Ordinance approving the Hazard Mitigation Plan as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.
- b. Do not adopt an Ordinance approving the Hazard Mitigation Plan as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.

Fiscal Impacts

Adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan will not result in any immediate direct fiscal impact on the City. However, its adoption will make the City eligible for hazard mitigation funds from the Federal government to both prevent and respond to disasters. Some of the implementation strategies identified in the Plan could result in a fiscal impact upon the private or public sectors.

If the City elects to pursue any programs that are not currently budgeted or contained within existing work programs, additional analysis and Council action would be necessary at that time.

Recommendation

Based on the evidence presented in the discussion above, and without the benefit of considering additional evidence that may be presented at the public hearing, **staff recommends that City Council adopt the attached Ordinance approving the Hazard Mitigation Plan as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.**

Substantive revisions to the Hazard Mitigation Plan would require further FEMA and IEMA review and approval, which could result in further delays in implementing the Plan. Therefore, staff recommends that any substantive revisions be incorporated in the first annual review and update of the Mitigation Plan. This way, the City would be eligible for funding immediately and would not need to await further review and approval from FEMA and IEMA.

The Plan Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan on June 16, 2005. A summary of the testimony from this hearing and the Plan Commission recommendation will be presented to Council on June 20, 2005.

Attachments: Figure 5-1. Action Plan Summary
 Draft Ordinance

Separate (or received previously):
Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan, Approved by FEMA, May 2005

Figure 5.1. Action Plan Summary

	Action Item	Suggested Time Frame	Lead Office
1	Hazard Mitigation Coordinator	Immediately after plan adoption	City of Urbana Building Safety Division
2	Shelter designation program: Identify existing buildings as shelters	Within 18 months of plan adoption	City of Urbana Fire Department and Building Safety Division
3	Consider incentives for shelters in multi-family apartment complexes	1 year from plan adoption	City of Urbana Building Safety Division
4	Mobile Home Shelter Program	2 to 3 years after adoption	
5	Cost-Benefit Analysis of Buy-Out of Mobile Homes	1 to 2 years after adoption	
6	Floodplain Study Program	1 to 2 years after adoption	
7	Community Rating System	1 year from adoption	
8	Conduct zoning study for possible Transfer of Development Rights	One year from adoption	
9	Create integrated information base for multi-hazard applications	1 year from adoption	
10	Technical Assistance Program for upgrading URM buildings	6 months from adoption	City of Urbana Building Safety Division
11	Feasibility study of financial assistance to improve safety of existing buildings	1 year from adoption	
12	Financial Assistance Program for retrofitting URM buildings	1 year from adoption	
13	Certification Program for retrofitting URM buildings	1 year from adoption	
14	Ensure emergency backup power system for critical facilities	3 months from adoption	
15	Improve public awareness and education	1 year from adoption	City of Urbana Fire Department Coordinating Agencies: Champaign County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA), and American Red Cross

ORDINANCE NO.2005-06-087

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF URBANA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2005
(Adopting a Hazard Mitigation Plan)

WHEREAS, the Urbana City Council on April 11, 2005 in Ordinance No. 2005-03-050 adopted the Comprehensive Plan 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan 2005 contains goals, objectives, policies, and other recommendations pertaining to land uses, housing, neighborhoods, and public infrastructure in the community; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government in 2000 adopted the Disaster Mitigation Act, with Hazard Mitigation Planning rules following in 2002 as part of the Code of Federal Regulations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act, preparation of a Hazard Mitigation Plan allows communities to be eligible for mitigation grant funds and pre-disaster mitigation grants; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana received a multi-year Project Impact Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2000, which included preparation of a Hazard Mitigation Plan, among its eligible activities; and

WHEREAS, a Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared by the City of Urbana Community Development Services Department in 2002 via contract with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Urban and Regional Planning and under the guidance of the Project Impact Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, revisions to the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan were made by the City pursuant to review comments of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency granted approval of the revised Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, after due publication and proper legal notification, the Urbana Plan Commission in Plan Case No. 1912-CP-04 conducted a public hearing on the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan on June 16, 2005, and by a vote of XX to XX recommended/did not recommend the adoption of the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan as an Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana City Council reviewed the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan on June 20, 2005 and finds that it is in the public interest of the City of Urbana to amend the Comprehensive Plan 2005 to adopt and incorporate the findings and recommendations presented in the attached Hazard Mitigation Plan dated as "Approved by FEMA, May 2005".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. The attached document, entitled City of Urbana, Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated as "Approved by FEMA, May 2005", and incorporated herein by reference, is hereby adopted as an amendment and supplement to the Urbana Comprehensive Plan 2005.

Section 2. The City Clerk is directed to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form by authority of the corporate authorities. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in accordance with the terms of Chapter 65, Section 1-2-4 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes (65 ILCS 5/1-2-4).

PASSED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2005.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2005.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM

I, Phyllis D. Clark, certify that I am the duly elected and acting Municipal Clerk of the City of Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois. I certify that on the _____ day of _____, 2005, the corporate authorities of the City of Urbana passed and approved Ordinance No. _____, entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF URBANA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2005 (Adopting a Hazard Mitigation Plan)" which provided by its terms that it should be published in pamphlet form. The pamphlet form of Ordinance No. _____ was prepared, and a copy of such Ordinance was posted in the Urbana City Building commencing on the _____ day of _____, 2005, and continuing for at least ten (10) days thereafter. Copies of such Ordinance were also available for public inspection upon request at the Office of the City Clerk.

DATED at Urbana, Illinois, this _____ day of _____, 2005.