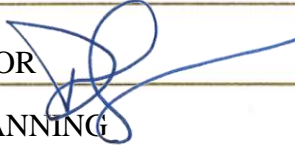



FROM	NAME & TITLE	CHRIS RYER, DIRECTOR 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #21-0040 / FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CODE – REVISION		

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

DATE: February 26, 2021

At its regular meeting of February 25, 2021, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #21-0040, for the purpose of modifying the City laws governing floodplain management to meet or exceed requirements for eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program and other requirements of Federal and State law; incorporating certain flood-resistant design and construction standards adopted by the American Society of Civil Engineers; defining and redefining certain terms; repealing redundant, obsolete, or otherwise superfluous provisions; correcting and conforming certain obsolete nomenclature; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the public health, safety, and welfare through floodplain management.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report, which recommended approval of City Council Bill #21-0040 and adopted the following resolutions; eight members being present (seven in favor, with one abstention):

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #21-0040 be passed by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lisa McNeilly, Director of Sustainability, Department of Planning at 410-396-8360.

CR/ewt

attachment

cc: Ms. Natasha Mehu, Mayor's Office
Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office
The Honorable Eric Costello, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. Matthew Stegman, City Council President's Office
Ms. Nikki Thompson, City Council President's Office
Mr. Colin Tarbert, BDC
Ms. Kathleen Byrne, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
Ms. Stephanie Murdock, DHCD
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Mr. Liam Davis, DOT
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
Mr. Dominic McAlily, Council Services



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sean D. Davis, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Chris Ryer
Director

February 18, 2021

REQUEST: Floodplain Bill Approval – CCB 21-0040

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Bruna Attila

PETITIONERS: The Department of Planning

OWNERS: Multiple Owners

GENERAL AREA

The CCB 21-0040 encompasses the regulatory floodplain areas, as mapped by FEMA.

BACKGROUND

FEMA released a new DFIRM, or Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map, based on new flood data for Baltimore City in 2018, and since then the City has been following the necessary steps for the new maps to become effective by 6/16/2021 as required by FEMA. As part of the adoption process, the City also plans to update its floodplain policy (Article 7, Division 1 of the City Code) based on FEMA requirements and with the intent to make the Code more transparent and implementable.

ANALYSIS

The City must adopt the new DFIRM and Code update by the deadline in order to maintain its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes available federally subsidized flood insurance to Baltimore residents. The City's participation in the FEMA's Community Rating System program, which provides a 25% or 10% discount on federally subsidized flood insurance rates, also depends on the new DFIRM and updated Code becoming effective by June 16, 2021.

CITY AGENCY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

City Agencies

- A meeting with City agencies that must comply with floodplain requirements was held in December 2021 to describe the proposed changes and collect comments. The agencies present included: DPW, DGS and DOT.

Public

- The Department of Planning Office of Sustainability hosted two virtual meetings on 1/12/2021 where we presented the proposed changes.
- The draft Floodplain Code was posted for public comment from 1/4/2021 to 1/31/2021.
- A total of 22 comments were received. Most of the comments were suggestions for language clarifications and were incorporated into the plan when appropriate.
- The public comment period and public meetings were advertised through a (3) email blasts that reaches around 22,000 recipients (GovDelivery).
- Extensive social media outreach was performed to advertise the public comment and public meetings.
- The public comment period and public meetings were advertised in (5) newsletters:
 - (3) Office of Sustainability Newsletters that reach around 5,000 recipients
 - (2) Department of Planning Newsletters (Compass) that reach around 22,000 recipients



Chris Ryer
Director