

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	LISA MCNEILLY, DIVISION CHIEF <i>LMcNeilly</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE  <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, Sustainability 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 <sup>th</sup> FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #17-0052R – Informational Hearing, Disaster Preparedness		

DATE:

**TO**

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

December 5, 2017

The Department of Planning (Office of Sustainability) is in receipt of City Council Bill #17-0052R, for the purpose of calling on representatives from the City agencies charged with preparing for and responding to disasters in our City to appear before the City Council to discuss the current state of Baltimore's disaster preparedness and how lessons learned from recent disaster responses can be applied here at home to ensure the best possible response to any threats we may face.

The intent of this bill is in line with goals of the City's Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project (DP3) as approved by Planning Commission on October 3, 2013. The DP3 fulfills the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirement for an All Hazards Mitigation Plan, addressing existing hazards while simultaneously preparing for those predicted by climate change. The DP3 identifies several hazards that were considered to pose a significant threat, including flooding; coastal hazards (such as hurricanes and sea level rise), extreme wind, and extreme heat.

Beyond the development and management of the DP3 planning efforts, the Office of Sustainability has taken other steps to better prepare the City and its residents for disasters, including:

- In order to address the risks of riverine and tidal flooding, the Office of Sustainability manages Baltimore City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by helping the City exceed the minimum compliance standards for managing the floodplain.
- In 2016, the City received a Class 5 status from the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is an incentive program that acknowledges a community's efforts to reduce the impacts from flooding. Currently, our residents receive a 25% discount for properties in Special Flood Hazard Areas, and 10% for properties that are not in those areas – an average savings of around \$200 per year per policy.
- The Office also reviews permits in accordance with the Baltimore City Floodplain Code, which has flood protection requirements beyond the Federal minimum. For

example, in some cases we require development in the SFHA (or 100 year) to be elevated an additional two foot standard above the federal base flood elevation. Additionally, we regulate to the extent of the 500 year flood plain, not the 100 year, which is smaller by area. We continue reach out to assist residents in preparing for floods and are working with local agencies to enhance the City's ability to notify residents about impending flood dangers.

- The Office is partnering with city agencies and local organizations in the most vulnerable neighborhoods to develop community-based Resiliency Hubs. Under this program, guided by the DP3, community partners step up to work together to ensure that neighbors are provided with the resources and support to plan for, respond to and recover from emergency events. Baltimore, along with a handful of other cities, are leading the creation of Resiliency Hubs.
- The Office further works to increase individual's preparedness to disasters, by outreach related to flood insurance and through the promotion of tools to develop family emergency plans and items to be gathered as part of an emergency kit.
- The Mayor's Office and the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative formed an Emergency Food Working Group to better coordinate City agencies and food suppliers during emergencies, after the April 2015 Baltimore Uprising highlighted the ways a disruption could harm food security in Baltimore. The draft "Plan for Food Access during Incidents and Disasters" details the City's short-term emergency preparedness protocols related to supporting private and non-profit food entities during emergency events. These activities are intended to prevent an emergency event from increasing food insecurity for already vulnerable populations (particularly children and seniors) with existing resources, but do not supplant large scale food distribution by larger entities such as state or federal agencies or the American Red Cross.

To address the goals of City Council Bill #17-0052R – Informational Hearing, Disaster Preparedness, the Office of Sustainability is available to provide any needed briefings on these and other programs.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-396-8360.

cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances  
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office  
Mr. David McMillan, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management  
Mr. Niles R. Ford, Fire Department  
Mr. Steve Sharkey, Department of General Services  
Mr. James Gillis, Police Department  
Mr. Rudy Chow, Department of Public Works  
Ms. Michelle Pourciau, Department of Transportation  
Mr. Tom J. Stosur, Department of Planning  
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services