

City of Warwick

Colonel Rick J. Rathbun
Chief of Police

Joseph J. Solomon
Mayor



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To: Honorable Steve Merolla, City Council President
Honorable City Council Members

From: Colonel Rathbun, Chief of Police/Emergency Management Director

Date: 07/03/19

Re: Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan

On behalf of Mayor Solomon, I am pleased to submit for your review and consideration the attached draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for the City of Warwick. The update is a requirement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the City to be eligible to apply for and receive certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for certain hazard mitigation projects. Common mitigation actions can include elevating or removing structures within high hazard flood areas, protection of critical facilities, land acquisition and development of outreach materials.

FEMA's purpose for local hazard mitigation planning is to ultimately reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters by engaging in hazard mitigation planning to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters, and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events.

The attached draft document has been drafted and prepared by the City's project consultant VHB who is funded by a FEMA grant. VHB has spent seven months meeting with City Department's (Police, Fire, DPW/Engineering, Building, Planning) and solicited input from the local business community through the Chamber of Commerce and also from residents. Following transmission of these materials to the City Council, the Plan will be distributed for a public comment period of a minimum of two weeks. The Plan will be then revised as needed and presented to the City Council to formally request a recommendation to forward the Plan to FEMA for review and approval. Following FEMA's approval, the Plan will then be docketed for City Council consideration to formally adopt the Plan.

At this time, I am respectfully requesting that Council members review the draft Plan and provide input on any suggested amendments. At the conclusion of the public comment period this Plan will be docketed for a brief presentation to the City Council with a request to recommend favorable action to forward the Plan to the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Management Agency for their review and approval.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Col. Rick Rathbun".

CC: Mayor Solomon, Chief of Staff DePasquale