



ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

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## Memorandum

TO: Mayor and Council Members

THROUGH: Gary Shimun, Town Administrator 

FROM: Phillip R. Holste, Program Manager   
Michael Mungal, CFM, Engineer II 

SUBJECT: Status of Broward County Local Mitigation Strategy: Town of Davie

DATE: September 24, 2007

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Resolution 98-278, September 2, 1998, authorized the Town's participation in the development of Broward County's local mitigation strategy (LMS). Resolution 2002-275 supported the above local mitigation strategy plan that was completed in 2000 by Broward County. Subsequently, Resolution 2004-019 adopted the local mitigation strategy plan, updated in 2002. Broward County produces an annual progress report for this plan. This memo is the Town's annual progress plan specific to its participation and actions in the implementation of the plan's goals. The memo was prepared by Town staff and was reviewed, revised, and approved by Administration.

For credit under the Community Rating System, this memo must be distributed to the media and available to the public. It is being sent to the media that cover the Town of Davie. Copies of this report and of the Broward County Local Mitigation Strategy are available for review at Town Hall, 6591 Orange Drive and the Davie/Cooper City Library, 4600 SW 82 Avenue. A notice of its availability is posted on the Town's website under press releases and there is a section devoted to local flood hazards.

## I. Background

The original Broward County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS thereafter) was drafted by the Broward County Mitigation Task Force and Broward County Emergency Coordinating Council in 1999-2000. The strategy focused on all potential hazards including those related to wind and flood. The plan recommended four goals to reduce and prevent hazards, including flooding.

The plan was updated in 2002 and identified an additional goal which focused on increasing awareness of available funding sources for mitigation. The Town has been a member of the Mitigation Task Force since its inception and attends its quarterly meetings. Currently, the task force is conducting planning seminars towards updating the mitigation strategy. The Town anticipates presenting these updates during its 2008 CRS cycle visit.

This document reviews those goals listed in Appendix A of the LMS. The goal's outcome will be analyzed using the defined action items to determine the Town's overall implementation and successes. The Town continually evaluates these goals and actions and makes necessary modifications as deemed necessary.

## II. Review of Goals and Objectives

### **Goal 1: To increase the business, residential and public community's awareness of hazard mitigation.**

a. Disseminate flood information through Town publications and other resources.

Status: Ongoing. The Town publishes two annual flood information outreach documents. The first document is included as a 2-page article in the Town magazine, the Davie Update, during its spring edition. The second document is a self-contained flood information brochure that covers a wide range of floodplain management subjects. This brochure is geared towards residents living in repetitive loss areas and/or special flood hazard areas. The Town, however, mails this document to the entire community.

The Town's website and Town-run television are two sources through which residences receive flood information on a regular basis throughout the year. The website contains a separate webpage with info on our "Local Flood Hazard" issues that residents may need. This information is sent out yearly to residents. The Town has also been proactive in getting short articles published in community newspapers relating to its flood protection efforts.

This past year, Town staff initiated a broader public information strategy that targeted specific groups about floodplain-related matters. For example, the Town mailed packets to 35 surveyors about the new FEMA elevation certificate requirements. The Town anticipates future mailings that will include realtors, HOA's, etc.

Staff recommends that the Town continue the above efforts and expand its public information strategy.

b. Develop a clearinghouse to disseminate accurate and consistent information relating to disaster mitigation.

Status: The Town's Development Services Department serves as the central information source for disseminating disaster mitigation information. The Town's grant division serves as the clearinghouse for all grants including those related to disaster mitigation. Staff is available to assist residents in completing mitigation grant applications.

**Goal 2: To ensure adequate training opportunities to support hazard mitigation and floodplain management.**

a. Provide training opportunities to staff members involved in floodplain management.

Status: Ongoing. Town employees continue to maintain their membership in the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA). Staff also attended the state and national floodplain conferences in 2007. Furthermore, numerous staff members attended hazard mitigation courses during the South Florida Hurricane Conference.

The Town continues to conduct internal training of public works staff on the importance of proper maintenance, the cleaning of catch basins and removing materials to prevent blockages.

**Goal 3: To facilitate measures to mitigate hazards.**

a. Provide site specific information and assistance to inquirers, including map information, flood protection advice, and information of selecting and dealing with contractors.

Status: This activity is ongoing. In 2006/07, there were approximately 110 new flood-related inquirers handled. 73% of these inquirers were related to flood information i.e. FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) requests, LOMA (Letter of

Map Amendment)/LOMR (Letter of Map Revision), etc. The remaining inquirers were site specific issues that were handled on a case by case basis by the Engineering division.

b. Implement small scale projects to correct localized flood problems

Status: This action item is ongoing.

The Town has implemented the following small scale projects in the past year:

- Regrading of front swale area throughout Town to improve stormwater conveyance system and prevent flooding
- Inspected and cleaned drainage structures throughout Town.

**Goal 4: To facilitate planning initiatives to ensure effective hazard mitigation (programs and policies).**

a. Monitor the implementation of the local mitigation strategy and prepare a written progress report to the Town Council yearly.

Status: This document represents the Town's update to the local mitigation strategy. The County, Town, and other LMS members are currently updating the local mitigation strategy. Specifically, this update is focused on Chapter 4: Hazard Identification and Vulnerability and Chapter 5: Mitigation Initiatives.

b. Update the Broward County mitigation project list to represent new local initiatives.

Status: The Town submits projects to the local mitigation task force for inclusion on the county-wide mitigation list. These sites are scored to determine their priority during grant cycles. The Davie Farm Park is the latest example of a mitigation project that has been added to the list and successfully funded.

c. Maintain the Town's Community Rating System (CRS) classification.

Status: The Town had a regular cycle verification visit in August 2003. Based upon this visit, the Town lowered its CRS rating from 9 to 8. In October 2005, the Town lowered its CRS rating from 8 to 7. In October 2006, the Town submitted its documentation for its annual recertification report. The Town's report was accepted. The Town's next cycle visit is scheduled for Summer 2008.

d. Ensure the Town's Evaluation and Appraisal report (EAR) and capital improvements program evaluate the Town's drainage system and make improvements as necessary.

Status: The Town adopted the EAR on April 19, 2006 through R2006-122. The EAR evaluated the current status of the drainage system. The plan states that the Town's drainage system provides adequate protection from flooding. The Town continues to evaluate its system and identify funding sources for drainage improvements. In 2006/07, the Town applied for funding from South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for drainage improvements in the Orange Park area. The appropriation, however, was vetoed by the Governor's office. The Town anticipates applying for this funding in the 2008/09 appropriations cycle.

e. Continue to participate in flood management programs and disseminate information and recommendations to the Town Council, staff, and residents.

Status: Town Administration and Engineering have kept the Council up to date on the Town's participation in the CRS and its compliances with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The State will conduct its annual NPDES audit review in October.

f. Expansion of Town's open space and parks system

Status: In September 2005, Town residents approved a \$25 million dollar Open Space Bond. The bond's goals included protecting the quality of water bodies and the preservation of natural areas. The funds will be used to purchase passive recreational area that will have limited impervious surfaces. At this time, the Town has purchased 59 acres of open space using these bond funds. The Town has an additional two properties, under contract, totaling 18 acres.

g. Create a Town floodplain management plan.

Status: The Broward County Local Mitigation Strategy currently serves as the Town's floodplain management plan. The LMS is currently being updated by the County's consultant, PBS&J, based upon feedback from task force members. Town staff is participating in these meetings and will provide comments throughout the draft process. Staff recommends delaying its floodplain management plan until the LMS update is complete. Thereafter, the Town should re-evaluate its proposed floodplain management plan at that time.

## **Goal 5: To increase awareness of available funding sources for mitigation.**

a. Increase awareness of mitigation funding sources, especially repetitive loss properties

Status: Through its annual outreach to repetitive loss properties and/or SFHA properties, the Town provides information on the various flood mitigation grant programs. The Town completed a repetitive loss (RL) property area analysis. This analysis evaluates RL properties and the surrounding neighborhoods to identify the flooding source and propose potential solutions. This analysis provides a basis for proposing future projects for mitigation funding.

### **III. Action items that have not been completed.**

Of the 13 action items reviewed, 12 items are underway (Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3b and c, Goal 4a-f, and Goal 5). Staff recommends delaying item 4g: Town-initiated floodplain management plan for following reasons: 1. Broward County and the mitigation task force members are updating the local mitigation strategy. Therefore, the Town should concentrate its efforts on this process. 2. The Town also needs to identify a funding source for consulting services related to its floodplain management plan. Therefore, the Town should re-evaluate this plan's development in summer 2008.

Overall, 12 out of 13 action are completed or underway equating to a 92% implementation rate.

### **IV. Recommendations**

1. Town staff should continue implementing the Progress Plan's action items and recommendations.
2. The Town should continue participating in the Broward County Mitigation Task Force. The Town should also consider creating a flood protection committee or appoint an existing committee with this role.
3. The Town should attend Broward County mitigation strategy planning meetings and provide feedback about the mitigation strategy updates. Upon completion, the Town should consider incorporating these ideas into a floodplain management plan specific to itself.
4. Update the Town website to include additional flood protection information, property owners' booklet, and electronic versions of flood publications.

5. The Town should expand its public information campaign to include realtors and other target-specific groups.

6. The Town should obtain grant funds to conduct further flood studies and drainage improvement projects.

7. Evaluate the installation of flap gates on outfalls along Town's primary canal, C-11.