

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
JULY 7, 2015 AGENDA**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
<p>Revisions to the Floodplain Management Ordinance and the 2015 Flood Insurance Rate Maps.</p> <p>Submitted By:</p> <p>Public Works Department</p>	<p>√ Ordinance Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p>Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
SYNOPSIS	<p>An ordinance to adopt revisions to the Floodplain Management Ordinance and the new digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in accordance with updated Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) criteria.</p>	
FISCAL IMPACT	<p>None.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Approval of the ordinance.</p>	
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	<p>Public notices have been published multiple times in the <i>Arkansas Democrat-Gazette</i> and public comments were received and addressed by FEMA and City Staff through the course of a lengthy public participation process. Staff has had numerous meetings with property owners, representatives of property owners, developers, and engineers regarding the new floodplain management ordinance and flood insurance rate map revisions since the process began in 2004. The new floodplain management ordinance and FIRMs were recommended to the Little Rock Board of Directors by the Planning Commission on June 4, 2015, by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 nays and 3 absent.</p>	
BACKGROUND	<p>The current Floodplain Management Ordinances were adopted in 2001, along with the effective FIRMs for the City of Little Rock, Arkansas.</p>	

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

The City has been a part of the National Flood Insurance Program (“NFIP”) since about 1980.

The FIRMs are periodically updated by the FEMA as conditions change or remapping requests are made. In approximately 2004, FEMA began a remapping study of Pulaski County under the Map Modernization Program. The proposed FIRMs are proposed to become effective in the City on July 6, 2015. The citizens have been provided several public comment periods on the proposed FIRMs and all comments have been sufficiently addressed by staff and FEMA. At the time the proposed FIRMs are adopted, FEMA also requires each partnering community to also adopt the latest FEMA prepared Floodplain Management Ordinance language.

This ordinance language details the criteria for developing within the floodplain and the responsibility of the City to enforce the ordinance regulations. The proposed ordinance is very similar to the existing ordinance. The revised ordinance regulates: floodplain and floodway areas; new and existing construction requirements; enforcement procedures; and new FIRMs. The new FIRMs reflect restudies of Isom Creek, Taylor Loop Creek, and the Arkansas River. All floodplain and floodways were mapped using two (2)-foot elevation contours. Finally, the new FIRMs show levees which protect adjacent properties from flooding. All the levees were recertified to show the current flooding conditions. The Little Rock/Pulaski County Drainage District #2 levee was certified after the latest of issuance of the maps. FEMA will issue revised map to reflect the levee’s certification.

With the FIRMs scheduled to become effective on July 6, 2015, staff requests an emergency clause be added to the ordinance.