

Resolution No.:	19-70
Introduced:	April 2, 2019
Adopted:	April 8, 2019

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: The Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018

Background

1. The Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan was first approved by the County Council by Resolution 14-569 in June 2000. Updated Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans were approved by Resolution 16-41 in February 2007 and Resolution 17-832 in July 2013. Upon adoption of this resolution, the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 supersedes all previous County mitigation plans.
2. On October 30, 2000, the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) was signed into law. To reduce the effects of disasters, the law encourages, among other initiatives, a planning process based on cooperation among state and local authorities, community partners, and the public at large. The law recognizes local and state pre-disaster planning and promotes “resiliency” as a major mitigation strategy. Under the regulations implementing this law, states and local governments must have an approved and adopted hazard mitigation plan in order to maintain eligibility for pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant funding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for reviewing and approving state and local plans.
3. The Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 is a major update to the 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan and is in accordance with the following state and federal rules and regulations governing local hazard mitigation plans.
 - Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §5121 *et seq.*, Section 322 (*Mitigation Planning*) (42 U.S.C. §5165), as enacted by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-390), and FEMA’s Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002, at 44 CFR Part 201.
 - Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) established under Section 14-103 in the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code. The Emergency Management Policy was updated in 1991 through Executive Order 01.01.1991.02 State of Maryland Emergency Management Policy.

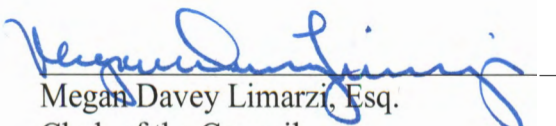
4. In developing this plan, a core planning team was assembled consisting of County agencies, municipalities, utility companies, and community and volunteer organizations. Three public hearings were held to solicit public input. Representatives from 18 local municipalities were conferred with directly to receive their inputs. The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify policies, capabilities, activities and tools to help make Montgomery County more resilient in the face of future disasters.
5. In October 2018, the County submitted its initial draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for review and incorporated all comments satisfactorily. In January 2019, the County forwarded its final Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and approval. The partial government shutdown directly affected FEMA's review capabilities. Delaying County adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan until FEMA conducts its review could potentially put the County at risk of losing Federal Disaster Funds if the County suffers a declared disaster after our current plan expires.
6. The County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment Committee met on January 17, 2019 and recommended approval of the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 with some technical edits and corrections. The County Council approved the draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 with these recommended changes on January 29, 2019.
7. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) completed its review of the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018. Minor changes required by FEMA have been incorporated into the latest version of the Plan. Adoption by the County Council of the latest version of the Plan is required for final FEMA approval.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council approves and adopts the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.
Clerk of the Council