

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen

From: Jim Bryant, Planning Director

Subject: Executive Summary of The Sevierville, Tennessee Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date: June 13, 2006

Executive Summary

Attached for your review is a revised draft of a document entitled The Sevierville, Tennessee Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan is intended to provide a framework for future actions aimed at reducing or mitigating the community's vulnerability to natural hazards, including flooding, earthquakes, and high winds. Funding for the plan was provided by a planning grant sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with the cooperation of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). In order to comply with FEMA rules regarding the plan, it is requested that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen adopt the plan by Resolution.

Once an acceptable mitigation plan is approved by FEMA, it will be possible for the City of Sevierville to apply for federal funds to help reduce the impacts of natural hazards within the community. Such funds could be available for hazard reduction prior to any future occurrences of natural disasters. For example, funding could be obtained to raise portions of streets that are subject to flooding, or perhaps elevate some buildings that are vulnerable to flooding. The recommendations in the plan do not require the City of Sevierville to fund projects, although it can do so voluntarily. Some recommended actions will involve relatively small amounts of periodic staff time from current employees, mainly within the Department of Planning and Development. Thus no additional personnel will be needed to implement the plan.

Currently, the mitigation plan is being reviewed by TEMA, prior to later submission to FEMA for its approval. In formulating the plan, a Coordinating Team or Committee was established according to the federal laws and regulations governing hazard mitigation planning. The Sevierville Planning Team included various members of city departments and local utilities, who provided valuable advice regarding the issues and recommendations of the plan. Primarily, the Department of Planning and Development coordinated research and progress for the plan, composed its contents, and conducted opportunities for public review and exposure. However, Frank Colbert, of the Engineering Department was also a key contributor to the plan, since he generated

damage projections for earthquake and flooding hazards from a specialized computer program created by FEMA.

Contents of The Sevierville, Tennessee Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Sevierville, Tennessee Local Hazard Mitigation Plan consists of nine chapters, along with supporting tables, maps, and illustrations. The various chapters are described as follows: Chapter I is an introductory chapter providing background material for mitigation planning; Chapter II describes the planning process conducted during plan construction, including the Planning Team, interaction with other agencies, public involvement opportunities, and incorporation of existing plans and studies; Chapter III and Chapter IV both deal with risk assessment, particularly identifying significant natural hazards and evaluating the community's vulnerability to hazardous events; Chapter V contains the recommendations of the mitigation plan; Chapter VI describes the process of annual plan reviews and updates; Chapter VII contains five important maps relating to risk assessment; Chapter VIII lists sources or references used in the document; and, Chapter IX contains a substantial number of appendices providing further information and mapping referred to in the main body of the document.

The hazard mitigation plan will be discussed at the Board of Mayor and Aldermen Workshop scheduled for June 19th, and the Resolution of Adoption will be placed on the meeting agenda that evening for your consideration. Please give me a call if you have any questions or comments.