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LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager 

DATE: September 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Progress Report on the City's Local Mitigation Strategy Projects relative to Property Owner Discounts on Flood Insurance Premiums

Introduction and Background

Miami-Dade County is the designated local coordinator of the Local Mitigation Strategy Program (LMS) for the Miami-Dade County area, and prepares all the municipal components of the program into a single unified Countywide Local Mitigation Strategy. The primary goal of the LMS is to reduce vulnerability to natural, technological and societal hazards from all sources, but especially in South Florida from hurricanes, tornadoes, major rainfall and other severe weather events.

The City's participation in the LMS improves its standing and classification in the Community Rating System (CRS), thereby making flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program more affordable. The CRS is a points-based program that reduces flood insurance premiums for the citizens of participating communities. In the CRS program, flood insurance premiums are adjusted to reflect community activities that reduce flood damage to existing buildings, protect new buildings beyond the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) protection level, help insurance agents obtain flood data and help people obtain flood insurance. There are 10 CRS classes: Class 1 provides the most credit points and gives the greatest premium reduction. Class 10 receives no premium reduction. There is a 5% discount on flood insurance for each point below 10.

Currently, the City is a Class 7 community, and as such, the City's residents have been receiving a 15% discount in their flood insurance premium (equivalent to approximately \$2.8 million annually for more than 40,000 policies citywide). In order for the City to remain in Class 7 within the CRS's classification program, NFIP has requested that the City of Miami Beach produce a LMS progress report on an annual basis. FEMA requires this report to be submitted to the City's governing body.

On June 6, 2000 the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution R-572-00 to adopt the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). Miami-Dade County has a metropolitan form of government; which means that each of the municipalities within the County has also automatically adopted the LMS.

On July 12, 2006, the City of Miami Beach adopted Resolution Number 2006-26249 adopting the Miami-Dade County Local Mitigation Strategy.

Program Continuity and Strategy to Inform the Public

City staff attends the Miami-Dade County Local Mitigation Strategy meetings each calendar quarter. Additionally, the latest published version of the Local Mitigation Strategy, along with meeting times, dates and locations are posted on the Miami-Dade County LMS website at: www.miamidade.gov/oem/lms.asp

This memorandum will be made available to the public through the media and City Clerk's Office.

The following is a progress report on the projects listed in the City's Local Mitigation Strategy:

Flooding:

Drainage Improvement Projects

These projects have been specifically selected to improve the drainage system for the flood repetitive loss areas. Improvements consist of drainage improvements to mitigate street level flooding, reduce commercial property flooding concerns and improve emergency response vehicle access. These projects are will alleviate chronic neighborhood flooding situations.

Citywide Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements: The City's Master Plan effort identified over 160 drainage basins in the City of Miami Beach. Approximately 34 of these basins were identified as a priority. The City has committed to improving the facilities within the 34 priority basins.

Status: These projects are fully programmed through neighborhood projects and other projects in the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2008/09 – 2012/13). Approximately \$94.65 million for stormwater projects are anticipated to be preliminarily financed through a letter/line of credit in FY 2008/09 that would ultimately be replaced by stormwater bonds issued over a series of years beginning in FY 2009/10.

16th Street Drainage Improvements: Drainage improvements for the 16th Street right-of-way from Washington Avenue to Collins Avenue.

Status: Project was completed in March, 2007.

Nautilus Drainage Improvements: Drainage improvements for the Nautilus neighborhood.

Status: The project currently under construction has a cost for storm drainage improvements of \$25.5 million. The project is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2009.

Biscayne Point Drainage Improvements: Construction of drainage improvements at Stillwater Drive and 85th and 86th street in Biscayne Beach.

Status: Project is approaching 90% design and construction is anticipated to commence in 2009.

Bayshore Drainage Improvements: Construction of drainage improvements from Lower Bay Road between 21-23rd Streets and also between 27th and Alton Road.

Status: Project design completed and under permitting review. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2009.

Normandy Shores Drainage Improvements: Drainage improvements for the entirety of Normandy Shores excluding the golf course.

Status: The project is under construction and has a cost for storm drainage improvements of \$8.2 million. The project is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2009.

Belle Isle/Belle Isle Park Area Drainage Improvements: Drainage improvements to the only emergency evacuation right-of-way / thoroughfare on the Island.

Status: Project construction completed and in final closeout process.

West Avenue Drainage Improvements: Drainage improvements are proposed for the West Avenue / Bay Road neighborhood.

Status: The Basis of Design Report was completed in 2007, and design is anticipated to commence in 2009.

Flamingo / Lummus Drainage Improvements: Drainage improvements are proposed for the Flamingo / Lummus neighborhood along the only east / west rights-of-ways that connect designated emergency evacuation rights-of-way in the South Beach area.

Status: Project east of Washington Avenue completed in July 2008 (\$6.2 million). Design for project west of Washington Avenue anticipated to commence in 2009 with a projected construction cost of \$30.3 million.

La Gorce Drainage Improvements: Drainage improvements for the La Gorce Park Area bounded 63rd Street on South, N. Bay Road, West and intercostals on East and North.

Status: Project design completed and under permitting review. Construction anticipated to commence in 2009.

Lake Pancoast Area Drainage Improvements: Construction of drainage improvements for West 24th Street and Lake Pancoast Drive and West 25th Street.

Status: Project design completed and under permitting review. Construction anticipated to commence in 2009.

Palm and Hibiscus Area Drainage Improvements: Construction of drainage improvements for Palm and Hibiscus Islands.

Status: Project design on hold while FPL undergrounding plans are completed. Construction anticipated to commence in 2010.

Jefferson Avenue/S. Pointe Drainage Improvements: Construction of drainage improvements for the south point area bounded by Meridian Court to the east and 3rd street to the north, Jefferson Avenue to the west, 2nd street to the south.

Status: Design drawings are 60% complete.

Lakeview Drainage Improvements: Construction of drainage improvements for the Lakeview Area bounded by 51st Street to north, N. Bay Road to west, Cherokee Avenue to east and Lake View Drive to south.

Status: Design drawings are complete. Project anticipated to go out to bid in 2008.

Parkview Canal Seawall Revetment:

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding for this project.

Extensive Repairs to Seawalls: Repair of seawalls would mitigate the damage to the inland shoreline located throughout the City.

Status: Project underway. Currently under construction at Island View Park seawall. Design has been completed for three (3) additional seawalls throughout the City. The City is also seeking grant and alternate funding for additional seawalls throughout the City.

Canal Cleaning and Shaping – Citywide: Dredging of the approximately 12 miles of inland canals located within the City would directly impact the ability of the canal to hold tidal flooding and minimize flooding of surrounding properties during significant weather events.

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding.

Flood Proofing Sewer and Pump Stations: Relining and sealing 31 pump stations and 500 manholes to prevent water intrusion which would damage pump station equipment and structures to prevent failure of stations thereby avoiding flooding.

Status: The pump station rehabilitation project is completed. Manhole rehabilitation will be completed by October 2009.

Stormwater Outfall and Seawall Reconstruction: Replacement of seawalls and 150 stormwater outfalls with associated relining of piping leading to outfalls as part of a comprehensive program of drainage improvement projects which will alleviate chronic neighborhood flooding situations

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding for this project.

Windstorm

Storm Shutters and Protective Glass for City Buildings: To provide protection during a significant weather event

Status: The City received Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for four (4) critical structures and work is expected to be completed by December 2009.

Streetlight System Upgrade: When flooding occurs in low areas both residential and commercial, water intrusion occurs inside the bases of the streetlight poles and results in the malfunction of the lighting system. This project improvement will include re-wiring and placing individual fuses at each pole base and eliminate streetlight service interruptions, and damages to the street lighting infrastructure system.

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding for this project.

Enhanced Emergency Response Program: This project provides for a comprehensive preparedness program by the City including field deployment with hazard mitigation equipment and training, and equipment and training for search and rescue teams and protective clothing and equipment.

Status: Project ongoing. Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) drafts have been completed and are in the revision stage.

Citywide Dune Enhancement Project: To enhance and restore the City's dune system to retain sand and protect upland structures from storm surges and flooding impacts.

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding for this project.

Other Hazards

Miami Beach Emergency Operations Center: This project is a fully operational Emergency Operations Center for the City, including equipment and enhancements to the data center to ensure that systems are available to the Miami Beach EOC during an emergency.

Status: Project has been completed.

Miami Beach Interoperability / Communications / EOC Program: This project includes enhancements to the City's EOC, such as a Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System, 911 Workstations, a microwave radio system and PSCU upgrade, etc.

Status: Project underway. Phase 1 of the Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System will be fully implemented in 2009 and the PSCU upgrade will begin also during 2009.

Citywide Water Infrastructure Improvements: This project will implement the City of Miami Beach Water System Master Plan; the project includes the replacement of aging water lines (60+ years old).

Status: This project is fully programmed through neighborhood projects and other projects in the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2008/09 – 2012/13). Approximately \$45.4 million for water projects are anticipated to be preliminarily financed through a letter/line of credit in FY 2008/09 that would ultimately be replaced by water bonds issued over a series of years beginning in FY 2009/10.

Portable Traffic Light Signals: Ten (10) portable traffic signals for emergency situations.

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding for this project.

Citywide Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements: The wastewater lines were built between 1926 and 1956, and the pipes are either beyond or at the end of their useful life.

Status: This project is fully programmed through neighborhood projects and other projects in the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2008/09 – 2012/13). Approximately \$4.9 million for sewer projects are anticipated to be preliminarily financed through a letter/line of credit in FY 2008/09 that would ultimately be replaced by sewer bonds issued over a series of years beginning in FY 2009/10.

West Avenue Bridge: To relieve congestion on Alton Road, reducing the volume of local traffic at the busiest intersections and providing a safer venue for road users to access the causeway to Miami as part of the City's emergency evacuation plan.

Status: Project ongoing. The traffic study has been conducted.

Recommendations:

1. The City will continue to participate in Miami-Dade County's LMS program and monitor the projects, as needed.
2. The City will continue to conduct an annual Hurricane and Flood Hazard Awareness Week for the residents and visitors of Miami Beach.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

JMG/KGB/JMH/RM/IAS