



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
NO. LTC # 220-2014

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LETTER TO COMMISSION  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission  
FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager  
DATE: June 25, 2014

SUBJECT: **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Assistance Visit by FEMA with the City of Miami Beach/Class 6 Community Rating**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to inform the City Commission of a recent communication received by the Office of the Mayor from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding the successful completion of a Community Assistance Visit (CAV), and related information about the City of Miami Beach's rating as a Class 6 community in the NFIP's Community Rating System program. Attached is a letter dated June 18, 2014, from Susan W. Wilson, Chief of FEMA's Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch, Mitigation Division, to Mayor Philip Levine.

In August 2012, the City of Miami Beach received a Community Assistance Visit from FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. These visits are routine and occur approximately every five years. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the effectiveness of floodplain management and other programs the City implements to reduce the impacts of flooding. Since that time, the City's Building Department has led efforts to compile responses to significant requests for information and documentation by FEMA, and respond to requests by FEMA to make amendments to Chapter 54, the City's Floodplain Ordinance (which has been amended twice during this time frame).

FEMA's review included the City's floodplain management ordinance, including amendments made thereto, the City's procedures for development permitting in areas of Special Flood Hazard, elevation and flood-proofing certificates, variances granted to historic structures, substantially improved and substantially damaged buildings, and "submit for rate" structures. Upon completion of the review, FEMA has now concluded that the City's floodplain management program is compliant with the floodplain management criteria of the NFIP. The City's continued efforts relating to floodplain management have now earned it a "Class 6" rating in the NFIP's Community Rating System Program. As Ms. Wilson states in her letter: *"As a Class 6 community in the NFIP's Community Rating System program, the 46,152 flood insurance policyholders in the City of Miami Beach are saving over \$5.7 million in their annual insurance premiums"*.

I wish to congratulate and thank all City staff, boards and officials involved in floodplain management who have worked together to make this possible.

  
JLM/JJJ/MVF/SS



**FEMA**

June 18, 2014

The Honorable Philip Levine  
Mayor, City of Miami Beach  
1700 Convention Center Drive  
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Reference: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Assistance Visit (CAV)

Dear Mayor Levine,

We have reviewed the City's response, exhibits 1 through 6, as well as the extensive supporting documentation on the compact disc. These included review of the following:

1. The City's floodplain management ordinance and amendment,
2. Review procedures for permitting development in areas of Special Flood Hazard,
3. Elevation and Floodproofing Certificates,
4. Variance granted to a designated historic structure to exempt from meeting the City's Base Flood Elevation requirement,
5. Potential substantially improved and substantially damaged buildings, and
6. Submit-for-Rate structures.

We have determined that the City's floodplain management program is compliant with the floodplain management criteria of the NFIP. The CAV is now closed.

As a Class 6 community in the NFIP's Community Rating System program, the 46,152 flood insurance policyholders in Miami Beach are saving over \$5.7 million in their annual insurance premiums. This is a direct result of the hard work of Mr. Mohsen Jarahpour, CFM, Chief Engineering Inspector, and the City's floodplain management team. We congratulate you on being one of the top tier NFIP communities in the nation.

We appreciate your support, commitment and dedication to reducing the loss of life and property damage from flooding. If you or your staff has any questions, please call Prasad Inmula, Ph.D., PE, at (770) 220-8841, or email at [prasad.inmula@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:prasad.inmula@fema.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan W. Wilson".

Susan W. Wilson, CFM, Chief  
Floodplain Management & Insurance Branch  
Mitigation Division