## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION MAY 21, 2019 AGENDA

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
Revisions to the Floodplain Management Ordinance and the 2019 Flood Insurance Rate Maps.	√ <b>Ordinance</b> Resolution	
Submitted By:		
Public Works Department		Bruce T. Moore City Manager
SYNOPSIS	An ordinance to adopt revisions to the Floodplain Management Ordinance and the new digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps in accordance with updated Federal Emergency Management Association criteria and statutes. This ordinance will impact all Wards.	
FISCAL IMPACT	None.	
RECOMMENDATION	Approval of the ordinance.	
BACKGROUND	The City of Little Rock has been a part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since approximately 1980. Participation in NFIP requires that a community adopt regulations in accordance with 44 CFR 60.3. These codes require the adoption of final base flood elevations as shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The current Floodplain Management Ordinances were adopted in 2015, along with the effective FIRMs for the City of Little Rock, Arkansas. The FIRMs are periodically updated by Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) as conditions change or remapping requests are made. In 2015, the City participated in the Arkansas Cooperating Technical Partnership Program (ARCTP) Grant to study and remap Rock Creek, Grassy Flats North, Colony West and State Capitol Drain. The preliminary FIRMs will become effective on June 7, 2019. Public notices were published multiple times in the <i>Arkansas</i>	

Democrat-Gazette and public comments were received and addressed by FEMA and Public Works Staff through the course of a lengthy public participation process. Staff has held numerous meetings with property owners, representatives of property owners, developers, and engineers regarding the new Floodplain Management Ordinance and FIRM revisions since the process began in 2015.

Prior to the effective date, FEMA requires each partnering community to adopt the preliminary FIRMs and adopt the latest FEMA prepared Floodplain Management Ordinance language.

The citizens have been provided several public comment periods on the proposed FIRMs and all comments have been appropriately addressed by staff and FEMA. A comparison of the new FEMA Insurance Rate Maps to the current maps show the following:

- 1,052 structures are within the floodplain area of Rock Creek, Grassy Flat Creek, and the State Capitol Drain.
- The new maps added 120 structures to the floodplain area that were not previously shown in the floodplain.
- The new maps removed 374 structures from the floodplain that were previously shown in the floodplain area.

The new maps can be viewed at the FEMA web site at this web address: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home.

This proposed ordinance language adopts the latest Flood Insurance Study and FIRMs dated June 7, 2019, to be administered as the official FIRMs of the City of Little Rock.