# Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Public Safety Committee Meeting March 20, 2023

# Hazard Mitigation Planning - Defined

- Hazard mitigation planning reduces loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters before they occur.
- Annapolis identifies natural disaster risks and vulnerabilities that cause the most impact.
- The City then develops long-term strategies for protecting people and property from similar events. Mitigation plans are key to breaking the cycle of disaster damage and reconstruction.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency requires local jurisdictions to update Hazard Mitigation Plans every five years.
- The Annapolis Office of Emergency Management is the lead Department for this Plan.



# Importance of the Hazard Mitigation Plan



- The Federal Emergency Management Agency requires every jurisdiction to have an active and approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for mitigation grant funding.
- The idea is that FEMA will not fund mitigation projects unless the jurisdiction demonstrates it is working to reduce the risks of hazards.
- Since 2015, OEM has been awarded \$3,556,823.91 from FEMA for mitigation planning and projects since 2015 from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, the Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities Program, Public Assistance, and more. Emergency Management has pending grant applications totalling in excess of \$35 million for these programs.

# Hazard Mitigation Plan Cost

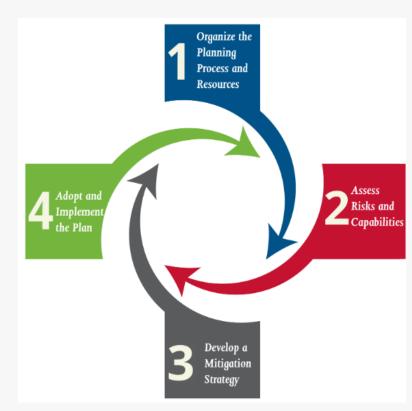
- The Annapolis Hazard Mitigation Plan carries no cost to the City of Annapolis!
- Emergency Management secured a grant through the FY20 Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities Program for \$37,500.00.
- OEM contracted with Smith Planning & Design to draft the Plan. Smith Planning also completed the City's previous Hazard Mitigation Plan in addition to the more recent Flood Resilience Plan.
- Emergency Management will use these grant funded plans to secure additional mitigation grant funding for the City.





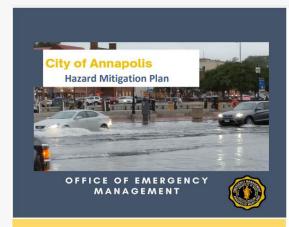
# The Hazard Mitigation Planning Process

- As part of the current update process, Emergency Management organized a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee consisting of partners with City Departments, Anne Arundel County, the State of Maryland, and Naval Support Activity Annapolis.
- Emergency Management convened a mitigation workshop, and distributed surveys on local hazards and mitigation priorities.
- OEM maintains a project website at <a href="https://www.annapolishazards.org/">https://www.annapolishazards.org/</a> in order to provide updates to the public and solicit comments on the draft Plan and the process.



# Hazard Mitigation Plan Timeline

- Emergency Management submitted the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan to FEMA on March 10th.
- FEMA has 30 days to review the plan and provide comments.
- Once Emergency Management updates the Plan to reflect FEMA's comments, FEMA will issue an "Approval Pending Adoption" letter.
- OEM will then submit the Plan to the City Council for adoption.
- FEMA will then issue a letter certifying the validity of the Annapolis Hazard Mitigation Plan for 5 years from the date of the Council's adoption.



2023

Draft Plan Update

office of Emergency Managemen Kevin J. Simmons, Director 199 Taylor Avenue Annapolis, MD 21402 www.annapolis.gov/oem www.annapolis.gov/oem

#### Conclusion

The Office of Emergency Management hopes to have your support

when the Plan comes before the Council.







Public Safety Committee Presentation - March 20, 2023

#### State Disaster Recovery Fund

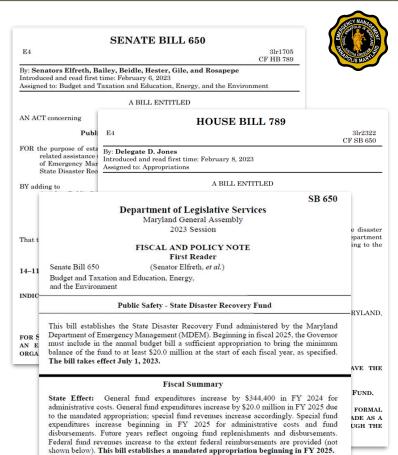
- SB 650 and HB 789 Lead sponsors include Senator Elfreth and Delegate Jones
- Established in response to growing number of isolated local disasters in Maryland:
  - Sept. 2021 Annapolis Tornado
  - Oct. 2021 King Tide Flooding
  - Aug. 2022 Smith Island Tornadic Waterspout
  - Ellicott City Floods
- Improves the current patchwork of disaster recovery programs in Maryland and creates a fund to be administered by MDEM and the local appointed Emergency Managers - the industry experts.



### Purpose of the Fund

General purpose of the fund is to provide:

- Disaster recovery assistance to individuals and families when a unit of local government has submitted a request for a disaster declaration but a federal declaration disaster is not granted;
- Disaster recovery assistance to units of local government of the State for the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility damaged or destroyed when a federal disaster declaration is not received;
- Disaster-related assistance for unmet needs of individuals and families who have been denied federal assistance but otherwise meet criteria established for the fund;
- And a portion of the fund can be used to administer Disaster Case Management Services.



(in dollars)

GF Expenditure

SF Expenditure

SF Revenue

FY 2024

\$344,400

FY 2025

\$20,000,000

\$20,000,000

#### Background- 2021 Tornado

- No State disaster declaration was made. Limited access to relief funds from existing State programs.
- Denied a Presidential Disaster Declaration, however, a SBA declaration was made for 4 jurisdictions impacted by Ida. Only allowed for low-interest loans to businesses and homeowners.
- Governor directed \$4 million to DHCD disaster housing programs.
  These were loans that were later converted to grants.
- Slow process in getting grant funds to impacted homeowners.
- No current relief program for renters. Current state program not available to nonprofit organizations, i.e., churches & community centers. Only for-profit business and homeowners eligible.



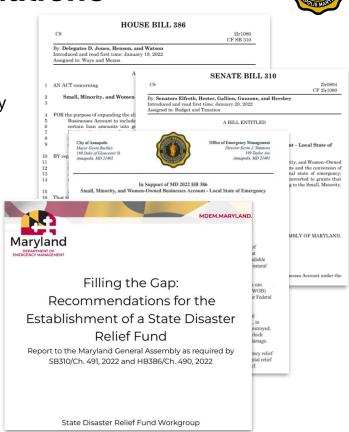
## Disaster Fund Study & Recommendations

Co-chaired by City of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

Workgroup participants included local EM Directors, MDEM, State/County Finance Managers, MACo & MML representatives, etc.

#### Topics and Considerations:

- Focused on Individual Assistance with inclusion of Public Assistance
- Administration of the fund
- Determining type of incidents that can use the fund
- Determining eligibility requirements
- Equity and Vulnerable populations inclusions
- Application process
- Disaster Case Management services



## Committee Hearings & Amendments



 OEM and Ald. Pindell Charles provided both written and oral testimony to Senate & House committees in support of the bill, along with MDEM, AACo, & MACo

#### **Testimony Key Points:**

- Current State programs are either unfunded or unable to meet needs of local disasters
- Low-income and vulnerable communities need support.
  "No one left behind"
- FEMA does not fund small disasters.
- EM experts are needed to manage program.
- Need for Disaster Case Management funding.
- Amendment calls for replacing the State's current Catastrophic Event Fund (~\$10 million) with the State Disaster Recovery Fund



# How Bill Would Benefit City of Annapolis



- Provides a quick and accessible resource for when recovery assistance is needed following a localized disaster such a tornados, severe flooding, microbursts, etc.
- Allows the City to directly request assistance from the fund independent of a State or Federal disaster declaration.
- Provides an opportunity for Annapolis residents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to access recovery assistance faster.
- Allows for City input through OEM in establishing the fund eligibility requirements.
- Allows for the City to increase its capacity to offer case management work to help residents more effectively navigate the recovery process.







#### **Christopher Meyd**

Emergency Management Planner City of Annapolis - Office of Emergency Management

cwmeyd@annapolis.gov