

Wilmington, Delaware
October 6, 2022

#0232

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Oliver

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-363 of the City Code, the Council deemed it necessary and proper to specify the requirements for review and approval of City-sponsored grant applications and proposals, including authorization for expedited grant applications when necessary prior to Council's approval by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City, through the Department of Public Works (the "Department"), submitted a grant application for the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program ("HMA"), a pass-through grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") that will be awarded to the State of Delaware ("DE") and administered by the Delaware Emergency Management Agency ("DEMA") in the amount of \$666,675.00; and

WHEREAS, the HMA includes both the Flood Mitigation Assistance and the Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities grant programs and the purpose of HMA is to provide states, local communities, tribes and territories funding to address high-level future risks to natural disasters to foster greater community resilience and reduce disaster suffering; and

WHEREAS, the Brandywine Creek is highly vulnerable to the effects of both riverine flooding and tidal flooding given its proximity to the coast and outdated drainage infrastructure, which is often unable to accommodate peak stormwater flows and is increasingly subject to blocked outfalls at high tide; and

WHEREAS, in September 2021, the remnants of Hurricane Ida caused the Brandywine Creek to overflow, reaching a flood stage of nine feet and causing significant flooding throughout the area and detrimentally impacting surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Department intends to use the grant monies to develop and evaluate flood mitigation alternatives for the Lower Brandywine area by completing a feasibility study, conducting equitable and inclusive community engagement and partnership building activities, developing an early conceptual design, and completing a cost-benefit analysis for a preferred project; and

WHEREAS, the City is required to provide matching funds in the approximate amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of the \$666,675.00 total project cost; and

WHEREAS, the matching funds, which total \$166,675.00, will be sourced from already budgeted funds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it necessary and appropriate to authorize the grant application for the aforesaid purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Department's grant application to FEMA/DE/DEMA in the amount of \$666,675.00 is hereby authorized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commissioner of the Department, or her designee, shall be authorized to take all necessary actions to accept any and all funds associated with the grant application and to fulfill the grant requirements.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution authorizes the Department of Public Works' 2022 Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program application to the Delaware Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$666,675.00. The funds will be used to develop and evaluate flood mitigation alternatives for the Lower Brandywine area riverine and tidal flooding and prepare a grant/funding request to implement the proposed alternative(s).

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: There is no negative fiscal impact to the City, as matching funds required by the grant will be sourced from previously budgeted funds.