TO: City Council

FROM: Planning Department

CC: Mayor’s Office

DATE: January 10, 2023

**RE: Overview of Proposed Resolution**

**Adoption of Niagara County 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The City is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a program under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 that provides flood insurance to communities with Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA, also known as “flood zones”). As part of this program, the City is required to adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), to identify community policies, actions and tools for implementation over the long term that will result in a reduction in risk and potential for future losses of life and property as a result of flood damage. This is a critical component in the City’s on-going certification which allows City residents to purchase flood insurance at a reduced rate.

The City has been part of the Niagara County 2016 Multi-Jurisdictional HMP, which focused on countywide hazards with potential for damaging physical assets, people and operations within Niagara County. The 2016 HMP, which included 31 action items to be addressed by the City, was adopted by City Council in February 2017 and was valid for five (5) years, expiring in 2022.

Niagara County and its respective municipalities have drafted a 2022 HMP using Mitigate NY, a new online hazard mitigation planning platform developed by New York State’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHS) and the University at Albany’s Visualization and Informatics Laboratory. The Niagara County 2022 HMP can be found here: <https://niagara.mitigateny.org/>

The Niagara County 2022 HMP was led by DHS, Niagara County, and the University at Buffalo Regional Institute (the “Planning Group”) along with input from Niagara County municipalities and Native American Tribes. The Niagara County 2022 HMP includes four (4) new focused action items (CNIA-1 to CNIA-4) to be addressed by the City in the coming years. It is recommended that the Niagara County 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan be adopted by City Council as the City’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.