



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	CONSENT
MEETING DATE	MARCH 9, 2026

ITEM:	Approval of Resolution 2026-015, Adopting the Anoka County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan	
<i>Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager</i>		
DEPARTMENT: Fire	BY/DATE: Dan O'Brien / March 9, 2026	
<p>CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> High Quality Public Spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Resilient and Prosperous Economy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive and Connected Community </p>		

BACKGROUND

The Anoka County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a countywide plan that identifies natural disasters that could affect our community and outlines steps to reduce damage before disasters happen. Hazard mitigation means taking long-term actions to reduce risks to people, property, and infrastructure from events like flooding, tornadoes, severe storms, extreme heat, winter storms, and wildfire.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local governments to adopt a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to remain eligible for federal disaster and hazard mitigation grant funding. Communities that do not adopt the plan are not eligible to receive certain types of FEMA funding after a disaster.

The 2025 Anoka County Hazard Mitigation Plan is a multi-jurisdictional plan that includes all cities within the county, including Columbia Heights.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

Anoka County has completed the 2025 update of its Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan includes:

- Updated risk assessments for natural hazards
- Information about vulnerable populations
- Identification of critical infrastructure
- Mitigation goals and strategies
- A five-year maintenance and update process

The City of Columbia Heights participated in the planning process. The plan identifies several local vulnerabilities within Columbia Heights, including:

- Senior housing, assisted living facilities, and a nursing home that may require assistance during evacuations
- A large non-English speaking population, which can create communication challenges during emergencies
- Above-ground power lines that are vulnerable to storm damage
- Low-lying roadway areas prone to flooding

- Aging stormwater infrastructure
- The need to replace a failing generator at the Public Safety Building to ensure continued police, fire, and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) functions

Adoption of the plan does not create a new regulatory requirement for residents. It simply allows the City to remain eligible for federal and state hazard mitigation grant programs such as:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

Without adopting the plan, Columbia Heights would not be eligible to apply for these grant funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 2026-015 approving the Anoka County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adoption of the plan will:

- Maintain eligibility for FEMA and state hazard mitigation funding
- Allow the City to apply for grants to improve stormwater systems, backup power, warning systems, and other protective infrastructure
- Support long-term planning to reduce risks to residents and property
- Improve preparedness for severe weather and climate-related impacts

Adoption does not require immediate spending but positions the City to compete for outside funding that can reduce future disaster costs and improve public safety.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):
MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-015, there being ample copies available to the public.
MOTION: Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-015, adopting the Anoka County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan

ATTACHMENT(S)

Anoka County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Resolution 2026-015 Adopting the Anoka County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan