

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2016-029

A Resolution Requesting that the South Carolina General Assembly and Governor Haley Provide Funding in the 2016-2017 State Budget for Local Governments to pay for Actual Damages and Associated Costs Resulting from the October 4, 2015 Flood and to Pay for Costs Associated with Mitigation Measures to Lessen the Impact of Future Flood Events

WHEREAS, on the weekend of October 4, 2015 the City of Columbia received more than nineteen (19") inches of rain in a 48-hour period; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City were severely impacted by this catastrophic weather event and the resulting consequences, suffering damage to homes, businesses, bridges, roadways, utilities and other City of Columbia infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia has been working with federal and state authorities, and coordinating with neighboring local governments, and working with non-profit aid organizations since October 4, 2015 to address the severe impacts of the flood and help the people of Columbia recover and return to normal life; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia continues to work with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to apply for federal funding to reimburse the City for actual damages and other costs associated with responding to the flood; and,

WHEREAS, FEMA rules require that recipients of disaster aid provide a twenty-five percent (25%) cost share for each loss approved for reimbursement by FEMA; and,

WHEREAS, the City estimates that its actual damages from the flood and costs associated with responding to the flood that are eligible for FEMA reimbursement are approximately \$75 million, 25% of which, or \$18.75 million will have to be paid by the City; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the flood, the City has identified infrastructure improvements that will mitigate the impact of any future flood on the citizens of Columbia; and,

WHEREAS, a portion, though not all, of these mitigation costs will be eligible for FEMA reimbursement, with a twenty-five percent (25%) cost-share requirement; and,

WHEREAS, the South Carolina House of Representatives has taken the first step toward providing local governments like Columbia with funds to pay the twenty-five percent (25%) FEMA cost-share for flood losses by including \$72 million in its budget for this purpose; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia, South Carolina this 4th day of April, 2016, that the City of Columbia respectfully requests that the South Carolina General Assembly and Governor Haley provide in the 2016-2017 state budget funding for local governments to pay for the twenty-five percent (25%) cost-share funding required by FEMA for reimbursement of all actual damages and costs associated with responding to the October 4, 2015 flood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Columbia respectfully requests that the South Carolina General Assembly and Governor Haley provide in the 2016-2017 state budget funding for local governments to pay for the twenty-five percent (25%) cost-share funding required by FEMA for reimbursement of the costs of identified infrastructure improvements that will mitigate the impact of any future flood.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Columbia respectfully requests that the South Carolina General Assembly and Governor Haley provide in the 2016-2017 state budget funding for local governments to pay the costs of identified infrastructure improvements that will mitigate the impact of any future flood that are not approved for reimbursement by FEMA.

Requested by:

Mayor and City Council _____



Mayor

Approved by:



City Manager

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:


City Clerk

Introduced: 4/5/2016
Final Reading: 4/5/2016