



41 Perimeter Center East, Suite 250
 Dunwoody, Georgia 30346
 P (678) 382-6700 F (678) 382-6701
dunwoodyga.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kimberly Greer, Assistant to the City Manager

Date: December 12, 2011

Subject: Update - Emergency Notification Sirens

BACKGROUND

Per Councilman Shortal's request, in 2010 staff researched emergency notification sirens and how they could be used in Dunwoody. To recap, emergency notification sirens can be used to warn the public of severe weather and other emergency situations through tone or a combination of tone and voice. The sirens are typically mounted on stand-alone poles, about the height of a telephone pole, and are relatively small in size. Based on quotes from siren vendors, purchase and installation of sirens throughout Dunwoody would likely cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

DISCUSSION - GRANTS

In April 2011, the Council adopted the DeKalb County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which makes Dunwoody eligible to apply for grants through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). HMGP funding is only available when authorized under a major disaster declaration, such as the one declared in Georgia on April 29, 2011. HMGP funds are competitive statewide and applications for projects were due in October. The maximum FEMA share for HMGP projects is 75% with a 25% match requirement.

In October 2011, staff submitted our proposal to install outdoor weather warning sirens across the City. In November 2011, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) indicated that they will be unable to recommend our proposal "due to limited funding available for warning initiative projects and the State's priority to fund projects in the Federally declared counties."

Staff will continue to work with GEMA to identify other possible grant funding alternatives and GEMA has indicated they will keep our application on file if funding under other mitigation grant programs becomes available.

GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
GEORGIA OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

#L3.

NATHAN DEAL
GOVERNOR



CHARLEY ENGLISH
DIRECTOR

November 21, 2011

Mr. Warren Hutmacher
City Manager
City of Dunwoody
41 Perimeter Center East
Suite 250
Dunwoody, Georgia 30046

Dear Mr. Hutmacher:

I would like to thank you for submitting a pre-application for an outdoor warning siren to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). During the pre-application process we received many strong and commendable projects which were reviewed.

Unfortunately, GEMA cannot recommend that you develop a full HMGP application due to the limited funding available for warning initiative projects and the State's priority to fund projects in the Federally declared counties. I will keep your information on file for other possible grant funding alternatives. Please continue to keep detailed records of future disaster-related events, as this information will prove helpful if funding under other mitigation grant programs become available.

Thank you for your interest and please do not let this keep you from pursuing other opportunities that the Hazard Mitigation Division has to offer. Should you have any questions, please contact Shana Slay, Hazard Mitigation Risk Reduction Specialist, at (404) 635-7245.

Sincerely,

Terry K. Lunn
Hazard Mitigation Division Director

tkl/sas

cc: Kimberly Greer, Assistant to the City Manager
City of Dunwoody
William Z. Miller, Director
DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency
Sheri Russo, Area Coordinator
Georgia Emergency Management Agency

