



## TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES MEMORANDUM

---

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Councilmembers

From: Edward Pidermann, Town Manager

Subject: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program

Date: July 14, 2020

---

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to accept the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program award in the amount of \$1,555,872 to provide funding for the Miami Lakes West Lakes Drainage Improvements Project, and authorize the Town Manager to execute the grant agreement, take all necessary steps to implement the terms and conditions of the agreement, and expend budgeted funds in connection with this Program.

### **Background**

According to FDEM, flooding is one of Florida's most frequent hazards. The West Lakes community in Miami Lakes continues to be adversely impacted by flooding events, with rainwater reaching residential garages and covering streets and sidewalks.

In 2012, the Stormwater Master Plan Update #2 was completed and identified several flood mitigation projects that qualify as projects in the County's Local Mitigation Strategy. The drainage sub-basin analysis for the West Lakes community noted drainage deficiencies which hindered the infrastructure in meeting the desired performance goals. The need for flood mitigation activity to reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering resulting from a major disaster or flood is critical for the West Lakes community.

In 2014, the Town sought resident input to assist in guiding the next 10 years of the Town's vision, strategic goals, and future growth. To capture resident input, a Townwide survey was issued to gain community feedback on vital projects to identify key issues and opportunities. Stormwater management and flood mitigation was identified as an area of priority for the Town. In 2015, the Town Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 15-1333 adopting the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan and authorizing the Town Manager to take all actions necessary to implement its policies and goals. One of the Strategic Plan Priority Areas is Environmental Sustainability. A vital objective of this priority is to improve drainage performance, efficiency, and ecology of stormwater infrastructure in the West Lakes community.

In 2016, the Town Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 16-1362, adopting the Miami-Dade County Local Mitigation Strategy and authorized the Town Manager to identify and prioritize hazard mitigation grant program projects to become a part of the Local and Statewide Hazard Mitigation Strategy and to apply for grants to implement mitigation projects.

Thus, the Town identified and applied for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Florida Division of Emergency Management, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program grant, and subsequently, was awarded the amount of \$1,462,500 to fund the Miami Lakes West Lakes Drainage Improvements Project. In addition, the Town leveraged community support and secured legislative funding in the amount of \$500,000 to meet the local participation requirement.

In December 2019, the Town advertised the construction solicitation and bids were received in January 2020. The bid amounts exceeded the original awarded grant amount of \$1,462,500. Subsequently, the Town made a request to FEMA through FDEM for an increase in the grant amount to avoid a reduction of scope in the project. The request was approved, and the grant amount was increased to a total amount of \$1,555,872. A construction contingency amount not to exceed \$220,000 will be funded from Stormwater Utility fees in FY2020-2021 for this project.

### **Benefits**

Heavy rainfall events result in inadequate drainage, flooding on residential roads, unsafe transportation conditions, environmental public harm as a breeding zone for mosquitoes, and potential property damage to homes located in the West Lakes neighborhood. The West Lakes area has suffered various flooding events and is addressed as a priority project in the Town's Stormwater Master Plan and Strategic Plan. The mitigation activity proposed is essential to protect the West Lakes community from flooding and potential damages to homes. This project is projected to impact 236 homes in this community. The West Lakes Drainage Improvements Project reduces the probability of repetitive flooding, improves stormwater management capacity, implements localized flood control, and enhances stormwater infrastructure resiliency, thereby enhancing the quality of life for the residents of the West Lakes community and the Town of Miami Lakes.