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Joint Board Matter

Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw
Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay
Supervisor Andres F. Jimenez
Supervisor Daniel G. Storck
Supervisor James N. Bierman, Jr.

March 4, 2025

Recognizing March 9 - 15 as Flood Awareness Week

Background:

Flooding, exacerbated by inclement weather and climate change, remains one of the most common and costly natural disasters in the United States. As climate change increasingly impacts communities worldwide, its effects are also being felt in Fairfax County. Bordered on the east by the Potomac River, and retaining many streams and creeks within its jurisdiction, Fairfax County is susceptible to both major tidal and event flooding.

Every year, the Commonwealth of Virginia promotes Flood Awareness Week in March before the spring rains and upcoming hurricane season. During this week, Fairfax County informs residents and business owners about the risks of flooding, and the importance of checking whether their properties are located in floodplains. Residents are also encouraged to obtain flood insurance and heed weather and flood warnings.

Throughout the year, Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services responds to service requests, and implements major stormwater projects, such as the Tucker Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project in the Dranesville District, to mitigate structural flooding. The department also provides residents with vital information and tools via web pages, social media, and media coverage.

The County also works with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District to offer grant funding through the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, which helps protect County properties from flood damage. Additionally, the District provides onsite technical assistance to residents and business owners to help them reduce the negative impacts of moderate to heavy rainstorms. These programs, along with the implementation of the Resilient Fairfax Plan by the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, are helping the County adapt to more extreme weather events.

When severe weather strikes, Fairfax County agencies launch a coordinated emergency response, involving the Fire and Police Departments, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and the Department of Emergency Management and Security. In alignment with its One Fairfax Policy, the County strives to ensure equitable outcomes for all, with particular attention to marginalized populations and underserved communities.

Motion:

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Public Affairs to draft a proclamation recognizing March 9 through March 15, 2025, as **Flood Awareness Week** in Fairfax County, for presentation outside the Board Room, and to publicize the event through its communication channels.