

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE  
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: 1.17.2020  
TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Christine Westrich, Director, Office of Emergency Management  
SUBJECT: Requesting ratification of the Proclamation of Existence of a County Emergency, dated January 17, 2020, requesting the Governor to provide state disaster relief for Milwaukee County and if necessary, to request a declaration by the President of the United States in order to secure public assistance as offered through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

**REQUEST**

The Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) respectfully requests ratification of the January 17, 2020 Proclamation of Existence of a County Emergency in order to continue damage assessments from the January 10-12 winter storm to determine eligibility for state and federal disaster relief and public assistance grants.

**BACKGROUND**

Milwaukee County sustained flooding and major damage to its shoreline during the January 10-12 winter storm with was an intense low-pressure weather system producing powerful waves, 50-60 mph winds, and accumulating ice of over a quarter inch. This resulted in low-level area-flooding, bluff erosion, and significant damage to public infrastructure. The elevated state of Lake Michigan, four feet above average heights, has exacerbated losses.

Initial cost estimates include the following:

- Debris Removal — \$198,500
- Emergency Protective Measures — \$32,000
- Roads and Bridges — \$590,250
- Water Control Facilities — \$2,724,500
- Public Buildings and Equipment — \$467,170
- Public Utilities — \$185,459
- Parks and Recreation Facilities — \$6,535,000

Total — \$10,732,879.

These damage assessments include costs from Milwaukee County Parks, Port of Milwaukee, City of Milwaukee Water Works, City of Cudahy and the Village of Whitefish Bay with further investigation of additional damages ongoing. Additionally, current snow cover and additional unseen failures may grow the estimate as melt and thaw occur into the Spring.

Local municipal and county insurance coverage policies will affect eligibility as well as historical evidence that natural features of the lakeshore have been improved, including beach nourishment, bluff replenishment, riprap, man-placed rock (breakwater), boat docks, piers, ports, benches, bike path, etc., which are eligible for state and/or federal funding.

A Proclamation of Existence of a County Emergency has been signed by the County Executive, in accordance with State Statute 323.14(4)(b), which states the County Executive shall exercise by proclamation the request to the Governor for public assistance when the governing body is not in session.

This Proclamation serves as the formal request for disaster assistance from the state and, if necessary, FEMA, should eligibility criteria be met.

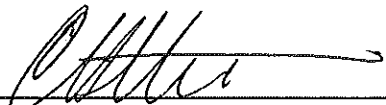
#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors ratify the Proclamation of the Existence of a County Emergency in order that Milwaukee County damages can be further surveyed in order to determine eligibility for state disaster relief and federal public assistance.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Early estimates total \$10,732,879 in damages. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act PL 100-707 guides both the FEMA Public Assistance grant program and the Wisconsin Disaster Fund state-funded reimbursement program, which have varying reimbursement formulas.

The state damage formulas are based on reimbursement of 70% (estimate \$7,513,015), and the remaining 30% (estimate \$3,219,864) becomes the responsibility of the affected government; the federal damage formulas are based on reimbursement of 75% (estimate \$8,049,659.00) from federal, 12.5% (estimate \$1,341,610.00) from state, and the remaining 12.5% (estimate \$1,341,610.00) the responsibility of the affected government.



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Christine Westrich  
Director, Office of Emergency Management

Attachments: RESOLUTION  
FISCAL NOTE  
Proclamation  
UDSR, Uniform Disaster Situation Report  
County Parks Photos

CC: Chris Abele, County Executive  
Supervisor James "Luigi" Schmitt, Chair, Committee on Finance & Audit  
Supervisor Jason Haas, Chair, Committee on Parks, Energy and Environment  
Finance & Audit Committee Members  
Parks, Energy and Environment Members  
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors  
Joseph Lamers, Director, DAS-Performance, Strategy and Budget (DAS-PSB)  
Lindsey Shreves, Fiscal and Management Analyst, DAS-PSB  
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller  
Janelle Jensen, Committee Clerk  
Shanin Brown, Committee Coordinator, Finance & Audit Committee  
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Parks, Energy and Environment