# CITY OF IOWA CITY
# MEMORANDUM

05-21-09
IP4

Date: May 20, 2009

To: City Council

From: Jeff Davidson, Director of Planning and Community Development

Re: Update: Flood-related activities

Planning and Community Development:

- For the upcoming Business Rental Assistance Program, we have 34 applications requesting approximately $500,000. The State is still waiting on HUD's approval of the program. When that happens, we will get a contract with the State for this program and be able to begin awarding funds.
- For the Jumpstart Small Business Disaster Recovery program, which closed on April 15, we had 56 total applications. 51 were funded for a total of $1,241,288.
- Immediately after the flood, we partnered with the Chamber and Coralville to award businesses up to $5,000 for flood clean up expenses. We awarded 18 businesses a total of $74,432.
- Planning staff attended the HMGP Acquisition Award meeting on May 15, 2009 in Urbandale. The City has made buy-out offers to 14 homeowners who indicated they would like to proceed as quickly as possible. Once those are returned, the receipts for repairs will be sent to FEMA for review. This could take 30-45 days. It is hoped that the first closings will occur at the end of June.
- Iowa City should be receiving funds from the Community Disaster Grants by 5/26/09. Iowa City can then schedule closings on property acquisitions; increase funds for housing repair, and reimburse the city for flood related expenses not paid for by other funding sources.
- A list of 71 properties in the Park View Terrace neighborhood was sent to the state on May 19th to be included in the non-FEMA eligible acquisition program. It is hoped the city will learn more about the guidelines and restrictions of the program over the next few weeks so that an application can be made by early summer.
- Jeff Davidson, Steve Long and David Purdy witnessed the signing of SF 474 (I-Jobs) by Governor Culver on Thursday, June 14 at Hancher Auditorium. The I-Jobs bill will provide funds for a number of programs in Iowa City including flood recovery, road construction, affordable housing and possibly assistance with the construction of the new facility for Shelter House.
- Staff met with lenders and builders/developers this week to discuss the Single-Family Home Construction Program. This program will provide homebuyer assistance to 40 homeowners to purchase newly constructed homes in six subdivisions in Iowa City. The program begins on Tuesday, May 26th. The Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County will be assisting the City with the administration of the program. More information can be found at www.icgov.org/newhomes on May 26th.
- Staff met with representatives from Mullin & Lonergan Associates this week to discuss the impacts of the flood on housing and community development programs and specifically to talk about the future impacts as they prepare the five-year HUD Consolidated Plan for Housing, Jobs and Services for Low-Moderate Income Iowa City Residents (2011-2016 CITYSTEPS). This plan specifies the needs of the community and sets funding priorities for HUD CDBG and HOME funds along with federal and local funds for the next five years. A housing and community development needs survey can be found at www.icgov.org/commdevsurvey

- Staff from PCD, Public Works, Chamber of Commerce and Dale Helling participated in a conference call last week to discuss a flood recovery funding opportunity for economic development planning available through the Economic Development Administration. Public Works/Engineering Staff will be attending a meeting at the Coralville Marriott on Friday, June 22 to gather more information about potential projects.
- To date, staff has distributed nearly $1.5 million in State and Federal Funds for repair, down payment assistance and interim mortgage assistance.
- Staff is working to coordinate participation and observance of the 1-year flood event with the University on June 15th and Idyllwild and Park View Terrace neighborhoods on June 13th.