

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of support for the Borough of Highlands 2022 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program application to FEMA.

1. What is the FEMA BRIC Grant?

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) will support states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.

2. Why is the Borough of Highlands applying for the FEMA-BRIC grant?

The improvements will address recurring / chronic flooding issues that have been going on for decades. On the Southern boundary of the Borough are the Monmouth Hills, which rise in elevations more than 200 feet above the downtown area of Borough of Highlands. To the west of the Borough's downtown area, in the Atlantic Highlands Borough, is Mount Mitchill, whose peak is also more than 200 feet in elevation higher than the Borough's downtown area. The Borough of Highlands is subject to the stormwater runoff from the steep grades surrounding its inland borders.

The Borough seeks to reduce the risk of flooding in the community and is reaching across town borders to partner with Monmouth Hills to holistically address the issue. Monmouth Hills is situated in Middletown Township. FEMA promotes partnerships and enabling high-impact investments to reduce risk from natural hazards with a focus on critical services and facilities, public infrastructure, public safety, public health, and communities.

This is an extraordinary condition that warrants special attention from FEMA for the following reasons:

- Large-scale flood mitigation infrastructure has not been introduced into this community to date
- The current stormwater system is under immense strain from the combined drainage of the surrounding elevations as well as flooding from the Shrewsbury River.
- Flooding encompasses most of the Borough from Veterans Park to Snug Harbor
- Rt 36 floods (State Highway; main access road to a federal park; evacuation route)
- Highlands has been the receiver of surface water and soil losses from the Monmouth Hills Watershed area since its incorporation
- Highlands is the 'sink' for over 200-acres of upland developed lands without any means of surface water evacuation, daily, year-round
- Other contributors to the flooding problem include moon tides and above average rainfall intensities

Scope

The proposed project will include installing, upgrading, repairing and/or replacing:

- Green infrastructure
- Infiltration basins
- Constructed wetlands
- Stormwater pumping stations and the associated pipe work
- Pump station emergency generators
- Pump station force main discharge pipes (into the Shrewsbury River)

- Inlets and storm drains
- Bioretention basins
- Associated roadway restorations

Location: Snug Harbor Ave, Bay Ave, Central Ave, Valley St, North St, Waterwitch Ave, Route 36, Kavookjian Field, and, in partnership with Monmouth Hills, Inc.- Waterwitch Dr, Valley Dr, Park Way, located within Middletown Township.

3. What should I include in my letter?

Content: Above all else, write your letter in your own words. If possible, however, please include **specific examples** of:

1. How the proposed project reduces risk and improves safety in the Borough;
2. How you or your organization/business will benefit from or utilize improved community resiliency and stormwater mitigation efforts; and,
3. Demonstrates the Borough's continuing commitment to building community partnerships and investing in infrastructure efforts.

You need not include all 3 in your letter – just the ones you would like to include.

Please address your letter to:

Carolyn Broullon, Mayor, Borough of Highlands, 42 Shore Drive, Highlands, NJ 07732.

The letter will be included in the grant application package. Please do NOT mail your letter directly to Mayor Broullon.

PRINT ON YOUR LETTERHEAD, SIGN, SCAN AND EMAIL your letter to:

alizar.zorojew@collierseng.com

You may also CC: Mayor Broullon and Borough Administrator, Michael Muscillo

cbroullon@highlandsborough.org

mmuscillo@highlandsborough.org

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR LETTER TO ALIZAR ZOROJEW BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022.

Thank you for your support!