

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 17, 2005**

To: Mayor and City Council  
From: George J. Rodericks, City Manager

**SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING A LOCAL  
EMERGENCY**

### **BACKGROUND**

Article 2A-1 of the Villa Park Municipal Code provides for the preparation and carrying out of plans for the protection of persons and property within the City in the event of an emergency. An emergency is the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster to the safety of persons and property within the City caused by conditions such as fire, flood, earthquake, or storm.

The Villa Park Disaster Council consists of the Mayor, the City Manager (serving as the Director of Emergency Services), and other members as so designated.

### **FINDINGS**

Beginning on or about January 3, 2005 the City experienced torrential rains and flooding which continued until on or about January 10, 2005. As a result, one of the City's major keystone retaining walls experienced a failure due to surcharged pressure from a slope slippage on adjacent private property. The wall is located along a major arterial and recreational trail. There is and continues to be an immediate threat to pedestrian and vehicular passersby.

On January 12, 2005, pursuant to Article 2A-1, the Disaster Council discussed the issuance of a proclamation of a local emergency. Pursuant to Section 2A-1.6, on January 13, 2005, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency certifying conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen in the City caused by the torrential rains and flooding and that these conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City.

Section 2A-1.6(a)(1) requires that the City Council take action to ratify the proclamation within seven (7) days of its issuance. A declaration of emergency sets the stage for assistance from the state, federal and private agencies and enables the local government to rely on special immunities for its discretionary decisions relating to the disaster.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

If a State emergency is declared, local jurisdictions may be eligible for 75% reimbursement of damages and personnel costs. If both a State and Federal

emergency is declared, local jurisdictions may be eligible for reimbursement of 93.75% of the damages.

Damage is estimated at approximately \$300,000 to \$350,000.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council ratify the declaration of a local emergency issued on January 13, 2005 by the Director of Emergency Services.