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January 5, 2022

City Commission
501 Harrison Ave.
Panama City, FL 32401

Re: Approval of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)
Use of Force Resolution, Acquisition and Relocation Policy, and Voluntary Home Buyout
Policies and Procedures Manual

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

Included in your agenda items are the proposed Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”) Use of Force Resolution, Acquisition and Relocation Policy, and Voluntary Home Buyout Policies and Procedures Manual. To qualify for the CDBG-DR (“Grant”) funds (estimated to be more than \$43,000,000), you are requested to adopt the (i) Use of Force Resolution, (ii) Acquisition and Relocation Policy, and (iii) Voluntary Home Buyout Policies and Procedures Manual for the use by the City.

The CDBG-DR Use of Force Resolution fulfills a federal requirement for the disbursement of CDBG-DR funds to the City of Panama City. Specifically, Section 104 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, prohibits any funds appropriated under the act from being distributed to local governments that fail to adopt and enforce (1) a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement against individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations and (2) a policy of against barring entrance to or exit from a location that is subject to a non-violent civil rights demonstration. This Resolution has been provided to the Panama City Police Department and is consistent with the use of force policy that is already in place.

The CDBG-DR Acquisition and Relocation Policy establishes the City’s operating procedure for situations where residents are involuntarily displaced from their homes as a result of a federally funded project, such as an infrastructure project where the project affects the resident’s property negatively but is required infrastructure for the City, either temporarily or permanently. This policy intends to ensure the City’s compliance with the Uniform Relocation Act (24 CFR § 983.7) by providing relocation assistance to eligible displaced persons. The relocation assistance is comprised of advisory services, comparable replacement dwellings, replacement housing and rental assistance payments, and reimbursement for moving expenses.

° OF COUNSEL
* ALSO ADMITTED IN GEORGIA
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*** ALSO ADMITTED IN ALABAMA
+ CERTIFIED CIRCUIT COURT MEDIATOR
++ L.L.M. IN TAXATION
+++ CERTIFIED FAMILY MEDIATOR
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The Voluntary Home Buyout Program will be used to buy property from low to moderate-income households in high-risk flood areas that were damaged by Hurricane Michael and continue to flood. All structures on the properties will be demolished and the properties will be converted to open spaces, such as parks, and used for wetland or floodplain management. The program also provides eligible owners with relocation assistance to an area of the City that is not located in a high-risk flood zone. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (“DEO”) has granted CDBG-DR funds to the City for this program. The Voluntary Home Buyout Policies and Procedures Manual intends to implement this program in accordance with DEO guidelines and federal, state, and local law.

Staff recommends adoption of the resolution and policies.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Zimmerman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "Z".

Nevin J. Zimmerman, Esq.

cc: Mark McQueen, City Manager
Jan Smith, City Clerk-Treasurer
Mark Smith, Chief of Police
Michael Johnson, Director of Community Development
Jennifer Aldridge, Disaster Recovery Project Manager