



RESOLUTION 21-347

**Resolution by the Flood and Storm Water Commission Requesting
Additional Investment in Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements and
Maintenance Staffing**

WHEREAS, according to Princeton's Climate Action Plan (CAP), local temperature data show that Mercer County has had a 3.6-degree Fahrenheit increase in annual average temperatures and a 2-inch increase in annual average precipitation during the past century. Furthermore, several local precipitation peaks have been recorded over the past several decades; 2018 experiencing the highest annual precipitation ever recorded; and

WHEREAS, flooding from heavier rains disrupts businesses; taxes our roads, infrastructure, and waterways; damages property and increases risk of injury and death; and infrastructure damage from flooding and storms threatens access to medication and can disrupt electricity to power medical equipment for those with existing medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather, changing weather patterns, damaged food and water resources, and polluted air impact human mental health, including increases in trauma and shock, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), compounding stress, anxiety, substance abuse and depression; and

WHEREAS, according to New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, annual precipitation in New Jersey is expected to increase between 4% and 11% by 2050; the intensity and frequency of precipitation events is anticipated to increase due to climate change; droughts may occur more frequently due to the changes in precipitation patterns; the size and frequency of floods will increase as annual precipitation increases; and tropical storms have the potential to increase in intensity due to the warmer atmosphere and warmer oceans that will occur with

climate change; and

WHEREAS, over the last 50 years, in the Northeastern United States, including New Jersey, the percentage of annual precipitation that occurs in large storms increased by 71% (Walsh et al. 2014), which is a faster rate than any other region of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a June 2018 FEMA study reports that natural hazard mitigation saves \$6 on average for every \$1 spent on federal mitigation grants, according to an analysis by the National Institute of Building Sciences; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Princeton has identified stormwater infrastructure projects that are high priority to ensure the safety of motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and residents, and to reduce erosion of affected streams; and

WHEREAS, the specific projects in Princeton that require immediate action are: Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study of the Harry's Brook Watershed; Quaker Road Stream Bank Stabilization on Stony Brook; Riverside Drive East Culvert Replacement on Harry's Brook; Regional Basin G Repairs on Van Horne Brook; Herrontown Road Culvert Replacement on Van Horne Brook; Terhune Road Culvert Replacement on Harry's Brook; Grover Avenue Culvert Replacement on Harry's Brook; Stony Brook Lane Culvert Replacement on a Tributary to Stony Brook; and other repairs and storm drain extensions; and

WHEREAS, the design, permitting, and construction costs to complete the above-referenced projects are estimated to be over \$4 million; and

WHEREAS, the annual additional operational cost for the Department of Public Works to staff a dedicated Stormwater Operations and Maintenance team is estimated to be at least


\$260,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Flood and Storm Water Commission that the Commission respectfully urges Princeton Council to acknowledge the following:

1. Provide immediate capital funding for stormwater infrastructure repairs and improvements to reduce future flood risks and damages in ways that protect surrounding and downstream areas; and
2. Allocate additional funding for consultant services to analyze and study stormwater flooding in the Harry's Brook watershed and provide specific recommendations to substantially reduce property damages, risks to public safety, and environmental disruption; and
3. Direct Public Works to establish a designated stormwater maintenance crew to provide consistent and responsible maintenance of the municipal stormwater system.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 st	2 nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Mr. Cohen		X	X		X			
Ms. Fraga		X			X			
Ms. Pirone Lambros		X			X			
Ms. Niedergang		X		X	X			
Ms. Sacks		X			X			
Mr. Williamson		X			X			
Mayor Freda		X						

I, Delores A. Williams, Clerk of the Municipality of Princeton, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Princeton Council at its regular meeting held on this 8th day of November 2021.


 Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk