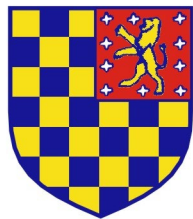


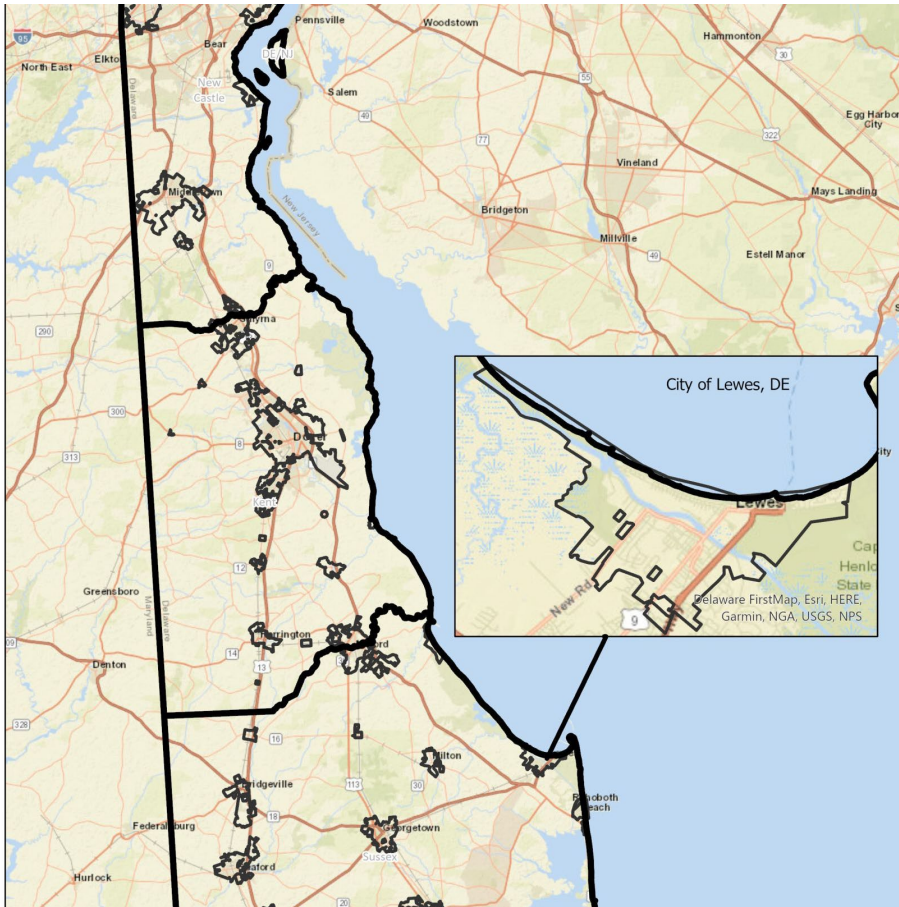
*The City of Lewes*



# Lewes Executive Committee on Resiliency

Ann Marie Townshend, AICP, ICMA-CM  
City Manager, Lewes

# Lewes – A Vulnerable Community



# Committee Origins

- Lewes Planning Commission established a Sea Level Rise Subcommittee in April 2020
- Met 1-2 times per month for 10 months
- Ordinance developed and presented to Mayor and City Council – poorly received by public
- City took a step back after resistance to ordinance

# Resilient Communities Partnership

- University of Delaware IPA and Delaware Coastal Programs
- Local community technical and administrative assistance
- Partnership with UD and DCP reset the discussion



# The Process

- Listening sessions
- Creation of Executive Committee on Resiliency
  - Education
  - Deliberation
  - Solutions
- Met twice per month for nine months
- Meetings held via Zoom



# Committee Charge

- Work with DNREC's Resilient Community Partnership RCP and University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA) to help develop plans and preparation activities to address the challenges anticipated as a result of Sea Level Rise (SLR) and Climate Change.
- Identify strategies and actions that the city can undertake to balance the development of physical space while maintaining the natural environmental characteristics and a sustainable quality of life.
- Provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding ways to ensure that city ordinances and regulations address the need to balance city growth with the challenges of the changing environment.
- Beach parking issues, source water protection, possible establishment of public facilities and relocation of the WWTP will not be considered by the LECR.

# Committee Make-up

- 11 Members
- Diverse backgrounds and interests
- Mayor, City Manager, Planner ex officio members (non-voting)
- DCP and IPA provide administrative and technical assistance


# The Committee's Work

- Start with education – Subject matter experts invited to help build common understanding of technical and regulatory issues
- Developed list of 14 Best Practices for Committee to consider
- Following discussion and vote, list reduced to 6 practices to consider more closely





## Six Strategies Considered

- Increase required **freeboard** in the 100-year floodplain
  - Increase **open space** for new subdivisions
  - Lower maximum **lot coverage**
  - Establish a **real estate disclosure** for sea level rise
  - Improve **landscape standards**
  - Create a **Resilience Fund/Storm Emergency Relief Fund**
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## Two Strategies Selected

- Establish a **real estate disclosure** for sea level rise
- Create a **Resilience Fund/Storm Emergency Relief Fund**

*Unanimously approved as recommendations to City Council*





# Factors Influencing Outcome

- Strong property rights perspective
- Lack of consensus on the urgency of sea level rise
  - Challenges to the science
- Selected recommendations will not change how land is developed




# The Bright Side

- Remaining 12 strategies available for future consideration
- Real estate disclosure – make people aware of risk
- Resiliency Fund – set aside funds to invest in mitigation and adaptation
- Community engaged in finding solutions – engagement will continue



## Next Steps

- Draft **real estate disclosure** ready for introduction in January
  - Plan to develop list of potential **funding sources** for **Resiliency Fund** for discussion in 2023
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## Other Efforts Ongoing

- West Cedar Street Flood Study – City applied for implementation grant through FEMA
- Lewes Beach Stormwater Analysis

