

RESOLUTION

Item No. 36619 **SUBSTITUTE** RE: Neighborhood Flood Relief Initiative for Owner Occupied Properties

To Her Honor, the Mayor, and the Common Council of the City of New Britain:
the undersigned beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following:

WHEREAS, Extreme weather events brought on by accelerated climate changes are increasing the threat to property and public health in vulnerable neighborhoods of New Britain; and

WHEREAS, Dilapidated storm water and sewer mains are not effective in handling overflows that result in street flooding and flooding into homes and property whenever intense storms occur; and

WHEREAS, Since July 2023 flooding incidents in neighborhoods most at risk from hazardous weather have become routine and are increasing. The outmoded storm water-sewage system has caused similar problems for more than 30 years with homeowners incurring heavy financial burdens, the loss of insurance and claims against the city; and

WHEREAS, Flooding related to outmoded storm and sewer systems is causing an increase in claims of injury to personal property and higher insurance costs; and

WHEREAS, Through the FLUSH program and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) the city's Department of Public Works has identified projects that will replace lead pipes and aging and broken infrastructure to reduce the risk to residences and neighborhoods. These projects require more public investments from local, state and federal sources to be completed as expeditiously as possible; and

WHEREAS, In lieu of capital improvements and other long-term mitigation activities, a **Neighborhood Flood Relief Pilot Program** can provide immediate and direct relief to homeowners whose properties *are at risk* of damage by storm water and sewage when extreme weather leads to flooding and damages; and

WHEREAS, Homeowner Assistance: The program will provide a grant up to \$7,500 to owner-occupied dwellings of up to 1 to 3 units on a first come, first served basis contingent on available funds to reduce or eliminate the risk of repeat damage to basements, buildings and mechanical systems not covered by insurance or other sources. Final approval for grants is based on meeting eligibility criteria and on the availability of funds; and

WHEREAS Eligible activities and improvements: Sump pumps, French drains, lateral replacement, window wells, basement windows, gutters, drain snaking, video

camera inspections, sewer jetting, basement cleanouts, new boilers, hot water heaters electrical components and related mold remediation; and

WHEREAS, Eligibility: Grant recipients' household income should not exceed 120% of Area Medium Income (AMI) and applicants must provide relevant income, mortgage, insurance information and receipts, permits and photos for reimbursement purposes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of New Britain set up a Neighborhood Flood Relief Pilot Program effective July 1, 2025 based on the parameters set in this resolution with funding of \$500,000 from unassigned fund balances or portion of funds (\$2,864,147) in additional state tiered PILOT funding for Fiscal Year 2025

Ald. Francisco Santiago

Ald. John McNamara

Ald. Iris Sanchez