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# NEWS RELEASE

August 5, 2009 – For Immediate Release

## City of Dubuque to Hold Meetings on New FEMA Flood Plain Maps

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque’s Planning Services Department will hold informational meetings for affected property owners on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) new Digitized Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM). These meetings will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at the Historic Federal Building (Post Office), 350 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City Council Chambers (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) at the following times: 7:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.

FEMA will hold an informational meeting of their own at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2009, at the Peosta Community Center, 7896 Burds Road, Peosta, Iowa. This will be a county-wide meeting. Representatives from FEMA, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the consulting firm that prepared the maps will be on hand to answer questions.

The City of Dubuque is holding its own informational meetings prior to FEMA’s meeting to help citizens understand the impact FEMA’s new flood maps may have on their property. The most significant impact of having a property in a flood plain is that new construction, new additions and even the existing structures may have to be elevated or “floodproofed” as part of any substantial improvement to a property. Also, if the property has a mortgage, the financial institution will require flood insurance.

The Dubuque City Council voted on August 3, 2009 to submit information to FEMA regarding recent and planned storm water improvements by the City. City staff hope that by providing additional information to FEMA, many of the properties now being shown as being in a flood plain will be removed from the flood maps.

The Planning Services Department is mailing 1,422 notices to property owners that City staff have determined are in a flood plain according to FEMA’s preliminary flood plain maps.

For more information, contact the Planning Services Department at (563) 589-4210 or [planning@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:planning@cityofdubuque.org). Additional information will be available on the City of Dubuque’s website on Thursday, Aug. 6, at [www.cityofdubuque.org/planning](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/planning).

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