

Race Equity Pocket Questions

Title: **Tropical Storm Chantal Response and Recovery**

Purpose: This agenda item provides an update on the Town's response before, during and after the tropical storm, its financial impact on the Town's budget, and plans for EV/Hybrid vehicle replacements and EV chargers.

Department: Town Manager's Office

- **What are the root causes of inequity in Carrboro and/or overall as it pertains to this subject area?**
 - Climate change is often referred to as a risk multiplier. Extreme weather, like flooding, exacerbates pre-existing social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.
 - Climate change is causing more frequent and severe storms, like Tropical Storm Chantal. Homes located in or near the 100-year flood plain may be priced more affordably and therefore attract home buyers or renters with lower incomes, even though their new homes will be vulnerable to flooding. Flood insurance, which can cost more than \$1,000 a month, is a financial burden that lower-income residents may choose to forgo to make ends meet.
 - According to the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index, the neighborhoods most impacted by Tropical Storm Chantal, Canterbury Village and Weatherhill Pointe, are not located in a disadvantaged census tract. News reports like this Sept. 5th [article in the News and Observer](#), however, reveal that residents living in these neighborhoods are struggling to afford to repair homes and replace property damaged by the flooding.
 - Several homes in Carrboro's disadvantaged census track, including several homes along Tom's Creek, were also impacted by the flooding.
- **Who is experiencing community burden now? Who will experience community burden if this action is passed? Will others experience community burden if this action is NOT passed?**
 - Community burden disproportionately affects those whose homes and property were damaged by Tropical Storm Chantal.
 - Outdated FEMA flood maps and gaps in flood insurance policies exposed these residents to financial risks.

- Those on fixed incomes, renters, and low to moderate income households are less able to bounce back from property damage or displacement.
- The Town's Public Works campus, as well as over 42 fleet vehicles, was also destroyed in the Storm. Replacing these vehicles and rebuilding the public works campus may result in a need to increase the tax rate, which would be more burdensome for low to moderate income residents.
- **Who is experiencing community benefit now? Who will experience community benefit if this action is passed? Will others experience community benefit if this action is NOT passed?**
 - Those residents whose property is located outside of the 100-year flood plain and on higher ground whose homes were not impacted by the storm experience community benefit now.
 - Those residents who can afford flood insurance will be most able to bounce back from damages caused by the storm.
 - Those residents and business owners who are eligible to receive state aid or public assistance or loans to remedy damages or losses related to the storm also benefit.
- **What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?**
 - No strategy is recommended for Council action at this time, however, the costs to replace Town vehicles and property may lead to an increase in the tax rate which may unintentionally lead to an increase in residents no longer able to afford to live in Carrboro.
- **What steps has your department taken to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? What strategies might your department take to address these in the future?** NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.
 - Staff are already working collaboratively with Orange County to update the county-wide Emergency Operations Plan to continue to improve response to hazards.
 - Staff could develop a strategy to sign up residents living in the 100-year floodplain or other vulnerable areas for OC Alerts.

- Staff can mitigate future negative impacts by ensuring that the post-Chantal recovery plan for the Public Works campus and vehicle replacements recommended for Council adoption utilizes insurance proceeds in a manner that aligns with the Town's two pillars of race equity and climate action.