THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Subject: Mutual Aid Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Staff Resource(s): Chris Budzinski, Beth Bechel

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a mutual aid agreement with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Background:

- North Carolina's Mutual Aid System is based on the premise that it makes sound economic and logistic sense to share some types of emergency response equipment and resources since no community can own and maintain all of the resources that might be needed to respond to any given event.
- The Mutual Aid System is a voluntary agreement among North Carolina local governments to share resources during a disaster.
- All 100 counties, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and nearly three-fourths of the 650 municipalities have signed the mutual aid agreement.
- The Mutual Aid System was developed following Hurricane Fran in 1996. At that time there was no uniform agreement among North Carolina's cities and counties so they could help one another during and after disasters.
- The N. C. League of Municipalities and the N.C. Association of County Commissioners developed the statewide mutual aid agreement and distributed it to county governments and municipalities. The N.C. Division of Emergency Management serves as the repository for the agreement.

Council Goal(s):

- Improve/Expand Core Services
- Neighborhood & Climate Resilience

Committee(s):

- Environment & Safety Committee - Will be reviewed on August 22, 2023

Pro(s):

- Joining the Mutual Aid System gives access to all of the State's response capabilities without incurring the costs to purchase, maintain, and insure an inventory of underused resources.
- Participating in the system provides efficient and effective assistance among governments, as well as faster reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Con(s):

- **NONE.**

Fiscal Impact:

- This action requires no City resources and has no fiscal impact.
- Activation of this agreement may result in the use of city personnel and other resources for emergency response, costs that are generally reimbursed.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a mutual aid agreement with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

WHEREAS, Chapter 166A of the North carolina General Statutes recognizes that the State of North Carolina is vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, under Chapter 166A and other chapters of the North Carolina general Statutes, entities entering into mutual aid and assistance agreements may include provisions for furnishing and exchanging of supplies, equipment, facilities, personnel and services; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the State, the Federal Emergency management Agenda (FEMA) has recognized the importance of the concept of coordination between the State and local governments, and

WHEREAS, the entities which are signatories to this Agreement wish to provide mutual aid and assistance amongst one another at the appropriate times; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Fire Chief of the City of Asheville recommends authorization for the City Manager to sign the contract on behalf of the City of Asheville;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby granted approval to sign of behalf of the City of Asheville a statewide mutual aid and assistance agreement with the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management of the State of North Carolina.

Read, approved and adopted this the 22nd day of August, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney