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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Dorchester County Council

DATE: November 27, 2018

Cambridge, MD – Dorchester County residents will see additional savings in flood insurance premiums in 2019 thanks to an improvement in the Community Rating System (CRS) Classification from an 8 to a 6. The CRS is a Federal Emergency Management Agency/National Flood Insurance Program system to encourage community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum requirements by FEMA. Points are allotted to communities based on actions and activities by local government and citizens to reduce flood damage to insurable property.

Brian Soper, Environmental Planner with Dorchester County Planning and Zoning, led the effort to improve the County's reduction. "Dorchester County has significant challenges when it comes to floodplain management due to our geography. The common sense measures implemented by the County Council, combined with collaboration with other key departments within the County, enabled us to reach our goal of a 6 rating," Brian said Tuesday after presenting the rating change to County elected officials. County Manager Jeremy Goldman was proud of the results of months of hard work by county staff. "While the County Department of Planning and Zoning led the effort, the Departments of Public Works, Finance, and Emergency Services contributed greatly to the lowered rating," Goldman said. The most significant changes could be attributed to the County's preservation of open space, adoption of the free board requirement and the Limit of Moderate Wave Action area maps, as well as the adoption of the Flood Mitigation Plan. Continued public outreach efforts like flood protection workshops and the County's participating in the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership will be critical to further improving the rating. Jim Bass, Climate Resiliency Specialist with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy said of the news, "This reclassification will provide an outstanding example to other Eastern Shore communities by highlighting the good work being done locally and translating that into valuable CRS points which will ultimately provide residents significant savings on their flood insurance policies."

County residents with eligible policies have enjoyed a 10% reduction in policy costs since the County was rated an 8. Now that the County is a 6, those with eligible policies will see a total reduction of 20%, bringing the average policy savings from \$90 to \$180. The total estimated savings to county residents is \$230,000, which does not include the savings realized through the flood prevention and mitigation activities undertaken through the CRS program in the event of a flood. The premium reduction will go into effect May 1, 2019. Residents with questions regarding the NFIP, CRS, or floodplain information can call the Department of Planning and Zoning, Monday through Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm.

Follow up press inquiries should be sent to Brian Soper, Dorchester County Planning and Zoning. Bsoper@docogonet.com; 410-228-3234 xt 1120