



## City of Barberton

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William B. Judge  
Mayor

### NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CITY OF BARBERTON RECEIVES \$595,000 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY GRANT FOR 14<sup>TH</sup> ST. N.W. HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECT**

**Barberton, OH** (November 13, 2019) – Mayor William B. Judge is pleased to announce that the City has received \$595,000 in competitive grant dollars from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Ohio Emergency Management Agency for the acquisition and demolition of up to 15 residential structures located on 14<sup>th</sup> St. N.W., near Wolf Creek. The subject area has a long history of flood related property loss and this demolition effort will return the properties, which are located in a 100 year floodplain, to perpetual greenspace and their natural environment.

In 2018, City of Barberton administration officials and representatives from Summit County’s Emergency Management Agency met with residents of 14<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. and received a voluntary participation commitment from the majority of eligible property owners. The cooperation of the area homeowners was crucial in creating a project that was not only successfully awarded, but also creates future flood mitigation opportunities for the west side neighborhood.

While Mayor Judge is excited about the award, he is even more pleased for the property owners involved. “I’m happy that the residents of 14<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. are being given an opportunity to relocate their residence and avoid the anxiety that exists by residing in a floodplain”, he stated. “This grant involved numerous years of hard work by our administration, the collaboration of several agencies, and the commitment of the affected property owners.”

Summit County Executive, Ilene Shapiro, who oversees the County’s Department of Emergency Management, was also enthusiastic about the news. “This grant is yet another example of successful collaboration between Summit County and our local municipalities”, she stated. “This collaboration is especially important when tackling challenging issues like hazard mitigation. When we work together, the taxpayers reap the benefits.”

City officials will be reaching out to participants in the near future with project details and timelines. Under the grant agreement, the City is required commit \$84,938.75 in local matching funds, which can partially be provided through in-kind administrative services.

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