

Jefferson Parish

Chapter 14 - FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE⁽¹⁾

Footnotes:

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Editor's note— Ord. No. [25261](#), § 1, adopted Nov. 2, 2016, repealed Ch. 14 in its entirety. Section 2 of said ordinance reenacted Ch. 14 as set out herein. Former Ch. 14 pertained to similar subject matter and derived from Ord. No. 24049, § 2, adopted July 27, 2011.

Annotation— Although members of parish council acted in good faith in abandoning pumping station feature of hurricane protection drainage project, parish council could not base their abandonment of this portion of project, represented to parish voters as intended use of bond issue funds, or hearsay statement that environmental protection agency would veto construction of pumping station. *Creppel v. Parish of Jefferson*, 384 So.2d 853 (La. App. 4th Cir. 1980)

Cross reference— Department of inspection and code enforcement, § 2-196 et seq.; maintenance of hog farms on marshy ground or areas subject to flooding prohibited, § 7-191; buildings and building regulations, Ch. 8; planning and development, Ch. 25; subdivisions, Ch. 33; zoning, Ch. 40.

State Law reference— Local governments to comply with Federal Flood Insurance Act, R.S. 38:84; hurricane protection and flood control in Jefferson Parish, R.S. 38:85.

ARTICLE I. - (14-1) STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION, FINDINGS OF FACT, PURPOSE, AND METHODS OF REDUCING FLOOD LOSS

Sec. 14-1.1. - Statutory authorization.

La.R.S. 38:84 delegates responsibility to local governmental units to adopt regulations designed to minimize flood losses to comply with the Federal Flood Insurance Act.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-1.2. - Findings of fact.

The flood hazard areas of unincorporated Jefferson Parish are subject to periodic inundation, which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, and extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-1.3. - Statement of purpose.

It is the principal purpose of this section to prescribe minimum requirements for land use and control measures for flood-prone areas in the parish as determined by the Federal Insurance Administration (FIA) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These regulations are based upon relevant technical storm data specific to the parish, as developed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers for the Federal Insurance Administration. These measures must be applied uniformly throughout the community to all privately and publicly owned land within flood-prone areas based upon standards set forth in these

regulations as prescribed by the Federal Insurance Administration. It is the purpose of this chapter to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to:

- (1) Protect human life and health;
- (2) Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects;
- (3) Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;
- (4) Minimize prolonged business interruptions;
- (5) Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets and bridges located in floodplains;
- (6) Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood-prone areas in such a manner as to minimize future flood blight areas; and
- (7) Insure that potential buyers are notified that property is in a flood area.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-1.4. - Methods of reducing flood losses.

In order to accomplish its purposes, this chapter uses the following methods:

- (1) Restrict or prohibit uses that are dangerous to health, safety, or property in times of flood, or cause excessive increases in flood heights or velocities;
- (2) Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serves such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- (3) Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which are involved in the accommodation of flood waters;
- (4) Control filling, grading, dredging, and other development, which may increase flood damage;
- (5) Prevent or regulate the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-1.5. - Department responsibility.

It shall be the responsibility of the department of floodplain management and hazard mitigation along with the department of inspection and code enforcement to coordinate the efforts of the departments of public works, department of planning, and environmental department relative to the implementation and enforcement of all regulations of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in connection with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to submit to FEMA any and all necessary reports required thereby.

ARTICLE II. - (14-2) DEFINITIONS

Sec. 14-2.1. - [Definitions.].

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this chapter shall be interpreted to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this chapter its most reasonable application.

Appurtenant/accessory structure means a structure which is on the same parcel of property as the principal structure to be insured and the use of which is incidental to the use of the principal structure provided the structure is solely used for parking and storage or access and does not exceed one thousand (1,000) square feet.

Area of future conditions flood hazard means the land area that would be inundated by the one (1) percent annual chance (100-year) flood based on future conditions hydrology.

Area of shallow flooding means a designated AO, AH, AR/AO, AR/AH, or VO zone on a community's flood insurance rate map (FIRM) with a one (1) percent or greater annual chance of flooding to an average depth of one (1) to three (3) feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable, and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.

Base flood means the flood having a one (1) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Base flood elevation means the elevation shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and found in the accompanying Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Zones A, AE, AH, A1-A30, AR, V1-V30, or VE that indicates the water surface elevation resulting from the flood that has a one (1) percent chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year - also called the base flood.

Basement means any area of the building having its floor sub-grade (below ground level) on all sides.

Breakaway wall means a wall that is not part of the structural support of the building and is intended through its design and construction to collapse under specific lateral loading forces, without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or supporting foundation system.

Coastal high hazard area means the portion of a coastal floodplain having special flood hazards that is subject to high velocity waters including hurricane or storm surges.

Critical feature means an integral and readily identifiable part of a flood protection system, without which the flood protection provided by the entire system would be compromised.

Cumulative substantial damage means flood-related damages sustained by a structure on two (2) separate occasions during a rolling ten-year period for which the cost of repairing the flood damage, on the average, equals or exceeds twenty-five (25) percent of the market value of the structure before the damages occurred.

Development means any man-made change to improved and unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

Elevated building means for insurance purposes, a non-basement building, which has its lowest elevated floor, raised above ground level by foundation walls, shear walls, posts, piers, pilings, or columns.

Existing construction means for the purposes of determining rates, structures for which the "start of construction" commenced before the effective date of the FIRM or before January 1, 1975, for FIRMs effective before that date. "Existing construction" may also be referred to as "existing structures."

Existing manufactured home park or subdivision means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before the effective date of the floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

Expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision means the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).

Federal Insurance Administrator means the individual to whom the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has delegated the administration of the program (34F.R.2680-81, February 27, 1969).

Flood or flooding means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:

- (1) The overflow of inland or tidal waters; or
- (2) The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

Flood hazard boundary map means an official map or plot of a community issued or approved by the administrator on which the boundaries of the floodplain areas having special hazards have been drawn. This map must conform to the special flood hazard map and be of sufficient scale and clarity to permit the ready identification of individual building sites as either within or without the area having special flood hazards.

Flood insurance study (FIS) means an examination, evaluation, and determination of flood hazards and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination, evaluation, and determination of mudslide (i.e., mudflow) and/or flood-related erosion hazards.

Flood insurance rate map (FIRM) means an official map of a community, on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

Floodplain or flood-prone area means any land area located in special flood hazard areas susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of flooding).

Floodplain management means the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage, including but not limited to emergency preparedness plans, flood control works, and floodplain management regulations.

Floodplain management regulations means zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, special purpose ordinances (such as a floodplain ordinance, grading ordinance and erosion control ordinance), and other applications of police power. The term describes such state or local regulations, in any combination thereof, which provide standards for the purpose of flood damage prevention and reduction.

Flood protection system means those physical structural works for which funds have been authorized, appropriated, and expended and which have been constructed specifically to modify flooding in order to reduce the extent of the area within a community subject to a "special flood hazard" and the extent of the depths of associated flooding. Such a system typically includes hurricane tidal barriers, dams, reservoirs, levees, or dikes. These specialized flood modifying works are those constructed in conformance with sound engineering standards.

Flood proofing means any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to properties structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.

Floodway (regulatory floodway) means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

Freeboard means a factor of safety usually expressed in feet above a flood level for the purposes of floodplain management. "Freeboard" tends to compensate for the many unknown factors that could contribute to flood heights greater than the height calculated for a selected size flood and floodway conditions, such as wave action, bridge openings, and the hydrological effect of urbanization of the watershed. Freeboard requires at least a one-foot freeboard to account for the one-foot rise built into the concept of designating a floodway and the encroachment requirements where floodways have not been designated.

Functionally dependent use means a use, which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that

are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo and/or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.

Highest adjacent grade means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

Historic structure means any structure that is:

- (1) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- (2) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- (3) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
- (4) Individually listed on a local inventory or historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 - a. By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior; or
 - b. Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

Land use and control measures means zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, and other applications and extensions of the normal police power to provide standards and effective enforcement provisions for the prudent use and occupancy of flood-prone areas.

Levee means a man-made structure, usually an earthen embankment, designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices to contain, control, or divert the flow of water so as to provide protection from temporary flooding.

Levee system means a flood protection system which consists of a levee, or levees, and associated structures, such as closure and drainage devices, which are constructed and operated in accordance with sound engineering practices.

Lowest floor means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking or vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor; provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirement of Section 60.3 of the National Flood Insurance Program Regulations.

Manufactured home means as defined in Title 51, Part XIV of LRS or Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), whichever is more restrictive. A structure transportable in one (1) or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. The term "manufactured home" does not include a "recreational vehicle."

Manufactured home park or subdivision means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two (2) or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

Mean sea level means, for purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988 or other datum, to which base flood elevations shown on a community's flood insurance rate map are referenced.

New construction means for the purpose of determining insurance rates, structures for which the "start of construction" commenced on or after the effective date of the initial FIRM or after December 31, 1974, whichever is later for the first placement of permanent construction on a site, such as the pouring of slabs or footings or any work beyond the stage of excavation. For a structure without a basement or poured footings the start of construction includes the first permanent framing or assembly of the structure or any part thereof or its pilings or foundation, or the affixing of any prefabricated structure or mobile home to its permanent site. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, land clearing, grading, filling;

excavation for basement, footings, piers, or foundations; erection of temporary forms; installation of sewer, gas and water pipes, or electric or other service lines from the street or existence on the property of accessory buildings; such as garages or sheds, not occupied as dwelling units or not a part of the main structure.

New manufactured home park or subdivision means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

One hundred (100) year flood means the highest level of flooding that has a one (1) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. This is the regulatory standard also referred to as the "100-year flood."

Overtopping means the amount of water passing over the top of a structure as a result of wave run-up or surge action.

Ponding means the storage behind a water-retaining structure of water from interior runoffs or the overtopping of a structure.

Recreational vehicle means a vehicle which is:

- (1) Built on a single chassis;
- (2) Four hundred (400) square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections;
- (3) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
- (4) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

Repetitive loss means flood-related damages sustained by a structure resulting in two (2) or more claim payments of more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) each from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any rolling ten-year period for a home or business.

Residential living area means all floor areas, except unenclosed porches, stoops, exterior and unenclosed stairs, and accessory uses such as private garages, carports, porte-cocheres, open and enclosed sheds, bomb and fallout shelters, private stables, and minor buildings used as accessory buildings as defined in "appurtenant structure".

Residential structure means a building, or portion thereof, designed or used exclusively for residential occupancy but not including trailers, hotels, motels, and motor lodges.

Riverine means relating to, formed by, or resembling a river (including tributaries), stream, brook, etc.

Severe repetitive loss (SRL) means established in section 1361A of the National Flood Insurance Act, as amended (NFIA), 42 U.S.C. 4102a., and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) structure is defined as a residential property that is covered under an NFIP flood insurance policy, having two (2) of the referenced claims within any ten-year period but greater than ten (10) days apart, and either:

- (1) Has at least four (4) NFIP claim payments (including building and contents) over five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) each, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds twenty thousand (\$20,000.00); or
- (2) For which at least two (2) separate claims payments (building payments only) have been made with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building.

Special flood hazard area is the land in the floodplain within a community designated by the Federal Insurance Administrator on official Flood Hazard Boundary Map as "special flood hazards" subject to a one (1) percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. The area may be designated as Zone A on the Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM). After detailed rate making has been completed in preparation for

publication of the FIRM, Zone A usually is refined into Zones A, AO, AH, A1-30, AE, A99, AR, AR/A1-30, AR/AE, AR/AO, AR/AH, AR/A, VO, V1-30, VE or V.

Special flood hazard maps means an official map or plot of a community issued or approved by the administrator on official flood hazard boundary maps as "special flood hazards" which may be flooded in the event of a one hundred-year flood.

Start of construction means (for other than new construction or substantial improvements under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (Pub. L. 97-348), includes substantial improvement and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition placement, or other improvement was within one hundred eighty (180) days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for basement, footings, piers or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

Structure means for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

Substantial damage means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

Substantial improvement means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage", regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either: (1) any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or (2) any alteration of a "historic structure", provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure."

Surge means the mass of water causing an increase in elevation of water surface at the time of a hurricane or storm.

Variance means a grant of relief by a community from the terms of a floodplain management regulation. (For full requirements see Section 60.6 of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations.)

Violation means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in Section 60.3(b)(5), (c)(4), (c)(10), (d)(3), (e)(2), (e)(4), or (e)(5) is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

Water surface elevation means the height, in relation to the North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988 (or other datum, where specified), of floods of various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains of coastal or riverine areas.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

ARTICLE III. - (14-3) GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 14-3.1. - Lands to which this chapter applies.

This chapter shall apply to all areas within the jurisdiction of unincorporated Jefferson Parish.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-3.2. - Basis for establishing the areas of special flood hazard.

The areas of special flood hazard identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the current scientific and engineering report entitled, "The Revised Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Jefferson Parish and Incorporated Areas," dated February 15, 2016 with accompanying Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs).

- (1) Official flood maps entitled revised preliminary digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRMs) for the unincorporated area of Jefferson Parish, LA, Community No. 225199, issued February 15, 2016 and as hereafter amended are hereby made a part of these regulations. Current and Historic maps are on file with the department of floodplain management and hazard mitigation, parish planning department, the department of inspection and code enforcement, and the department of public works.
- (2) The provisions adopted in (1) above hereby eliminate the use of FEMA Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) in all of unincorporated Jefferson Parish on the East Bank and West Bank, which were previously adopted on July 19, 2006.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-3.3. - Designation of coastal high hazard areas.

The Federal Insurance Administrator is the official agency that has designated coastal high hazard areas and FIA official flood maps are on file at the departments of planning, inspection and code enforcement, and public works.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-3.4. - Compliance.

- (a) No structure or land shall hereafter be located, altered, or have its use changed which would result in the structure becoming non-compliant. Any location, alteration or change in use of any structure or land shall require full compliance with the terms of this chapter and other applicable regulations.
- (b) When a regulatory floodway has not been designated, the floodplain administrator/CRS coordinator along with the appropriate Jefferson Parish Departments, must require that no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A1-30 and AE on the community's FIRM, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one (1) foot at any point within the community. (44 CFR 60.3C10)

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-3.5. - Abrogation and greater restrictions.

This chapter is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this chapter and another ordinance, easement, covenant, or deed restriction conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-3.6. - Interpretation.

In the interpretation and application of this chapter, all provisions shall be: (1) considered as minimum requirements; (2) liberally construed in favor of the governing body; and (3) deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under state statutes.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-3.7. - Warning and disclaimer or liability.

The degree of flood protection required by this chapter is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. On rare occasions greater floods can and will occur and flood heights may be increased by manmade or natural causes. This chapter does not imply that land outside the areas of special flood hazards or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages. This chapter shall not create liability on the part of the community or any official or employee thereof for any flood damages that result from reliance on this chapter or any administrative decision lawfully made hereunder.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

ARTICLE IV. - (14-4) ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 14-4.1. - Designation of the floodplain administrator.

The department of floodplain management and hazard mitigation is hereby appointed to administer and implement the provisions of this chapter and other appropriate sections of 44 CFR (Emergency Management and Assistance - National Flood Insurance Program Regulations) pertaining to floodplain management in conjunction with the Office of Inspection and Code Enforcement, Public Works, Planning, and Environmental Departments.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-4.2. - Duties and responsibilities of the floodplain administrator.

Duties and responsibilities of the floodplain administrator shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Maintain and hold open for public inspection all records pertaining to the provisions of this chapter.
- (2) Shall make interpretation as needed to the exact location of the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazards (for example, where there appears to be a conflict between a mapped boundary and actual field conditions).
- (3) Monitor the provisions of 44 CFR Chapter 1, Section 65.12, of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations, to ensure that no development in Zones A1-30, AE, AH, on the community's FIRM increases the water surface elevation of the base flood by more than one (1) foot, unless the community first completes all of the provisions required by Section 65.12.
- (4) When base flood elevation data has not been provided in accordance with this chapter, the floodplain administrator shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation data

and floodway data available from a federal, state, or other source in order to administer this chapter.

- (6) Updates and reviews the FEMA database of repetitive loss structure in unincorporated Jefferson Parish, maintains flood insurance rate map (FIRM) files, oversees and updates special flood hazard area (SFHA) maps.
- (7) Provides citizens, insurance agents, lending institutions, and real estate brokers assistance with flood insurance rate maps, technical guidance on various mitigation methods, and inquiries referencing the National Flood Insurance Program.
- (8) Review floodplain administration and to coordinate on related projects with the state DOTD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Jefferson Parish Departments along with their contracted professional service agents to ensure compliance with FEMA guidelines in the course of the oversight for FEMA mitigation grants.
- (9) Prepare, obtain, and maintain all documentation necessary to justify unincorporated Jefferson Parish's classification under the community rating system program; perform annual certification of community rating system program review and designated renewal period of complete certification of the program.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-4.3. - Permit procedures, construction requirements, review of construction.

- (a) Application for a floodplain development building permit shall be presented to the department of inspection and code enforcement on forms furnished by the department and may include, but not be limited to, plans drawn to scale showing the location, dimensions, and elevation of proposed landscape alterations, existing and proposed structures, including the placement of manufactured homes, and the location of the foregoing in relation to areas of special flood hazard. Additionally, the following information is required:
 - (1) Elevation in relation to mean sea level, of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new and substantially improved structures;
 - (2) Elevation in relation to mean sea level to which any nonresidential structure shall be flood-proofed;
 - (3) A certificate from a registered professional engineer or architect that the nonresidential flood-proofed structure shall meet the flood proofing criteria of this chapter;
 - (4) Description of the extent to which any watercourse or natural drainage will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development; and
 - (5) Maintain a record of all such information in accordance with this chapter.
- (b) Approval or denial of a floodplain development building permit by the office of inspection and code enforcement shall be based on all of the provisions of this chapter and may consider the following relevant factors:
 - (1) The danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
 - (2) The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner;
 - (3) The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;
 - (4) The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
 - (5) The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;

- (6) The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions including maintenance and repair of streets and bridges, and public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems;
 - (7) The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise and sediment transport of the floodwaters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site;
 - (8) The necessity to the facility of a waterfront location, where applicable; or
 - (9) The availability of alternative locations, not subject to flooding or erosion damage, for the proposed use.
- (c) *Securing a permit.*
- (1) In unincorporated Jefferson Parish, it shall be unlawful to proceed with any new development, construction, substantial improvement, to include "repetitive loss" and "substantial damaged structures", or mobile homes, without having previously obtained a permit properly numbered and approved from the director of the department of inspection and code enforcement.
 - (2) It shall be the duty of the department of inspection and code enforcement to see that such work requiring a permit is authorized. All work must comply with the building code, as well as this chapter, and shall be subject to inspection whether a permit is required or not, and is subject to citation at the discretion of the director.
 - (3) All necessary permits must be received from those governmental agencies from which approval is required by federal or state law, including Section 404 of the Federal Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1973, 33 U.S.C. 1334.
- (d) *Review of construction.* It shall be the responsibility of the department of inspection and code enforcement to ensure that:
- (1) The first floor elevation of new residential structures or substantial damage/improvement structures within a special flood hazard area shall be at the highest of either the base flood elevation of a one hundred-year storm or meet the requirements of this chapter's higher regulatory standards; or
 - (2) The first floor elevation of new nonresidential structures or substantial damage/improvements structures within a special flood hazard area shall be at the highest of either the base flood elevation of a one hundred-year storm or meet the requirements of this chapter's higher regulatory standards, if below the base flood elevation, that together with its attendant utility and sanitary facilities be flood-proofed up to the level of the base flood elevation of a one hundred-year storm:
 - a. Where flood-proofing is utilized for a particular nonresidential structure, a state registered architect or state registered civil engineer shall certify that the flood proofing methods and materials are adequate to withstand the flood depth pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces and other factors associated with the base flood, and a record of such certificates indicating the specific elevation in relation to mean sea level to which such structures are flood-proofed shall be maintained by the department of inspection and code enforcement including but not limited to electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment, and other service facilities designed and/or located to prevent water entry to accumulation.
- (e) *Construction requirements.*
- (1) *Utilization of new uses.*
 - a. Any new structure or substantial damage/improvement, structures as well as prefabricated and mobile homes within a floodplain area having special hazards shall be:
 - 1. Designed and built to protect the construction against flood damage;
 - 2. Built or modified in compliance with the building code and good engineering practices so as to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure;

3. Use construction materials and utility equipment that are resistant to flood damage; and
 4. Use construction methods and practices that will minimize flood damage.
- b. The structure shall be adequately anchored to foundation and, if a raised structure, shall be adequately anchored to the columns.
 - c. The structure shall have its lowest floor level at or above the base flood elevation of a one hundred-year storm.
- (2) *Existing uses.* Any existing use located on land below the level of the one hundred-year flood in a coastal high hazard area shall not be expanded except in accord with these provisions.
 - (3) *New or improved mobile home parks or subdivisions.* In Zones A1-30, for new, substantially improved or expanded manufactured home parks or subdivisions for manufactured home placement not in existing manufactured home parks or subdivisions, adequate access and drainage shall be provided and, if pilings are used for elevation, lots shall be large enough to permit steps, piling foundations shall be placed in stable soil no more than ten (10) feet apart, and reinforcement shall be provided for pilings more than six (6) feet above the ground level.
- (f) *Manufactured home flood protection.*
- (1) No manufactured home shall be placed in a floodway or a coastal high hazard area, except in an existing manufactured home park or existing manufactured home subdivision.
 - (2) All manufactured homes shall be anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement. Specific requirements shall be:
 - a. Over-the-top ties at each of the four (4) corners of the manufactured home, with two (2) additional ties per side at intermediate locations, and manufactured homes less than fifty (50) feet long requiring one (1) additional tie per side;
 - b. Frame ties at each corner of the home with five (5) additional ties per side at intermediate points, and manufactured homes less than fifty (50) feet long requiring four (4) additional ties per side;
 - c. All components of the anchoring system be capable of carrying a force of four thousand eight hundred (4,800) pounds; and
 - d. Any additions to the manufactured home are similarly anchored.
 - (3) For new manufactured home parks and subdivisions; for expansions to existing manufactured home parks and subdivisions; for existing manufactured home parks and subdivisions where the repair, reconstruction, or improvement of the streets, utilities, and pads equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the value of the streets, utilities, and pads before the repair, reconstruction, or improvement has commenced; and for manufactured homes not placed in a manufactured home park or subdivision, the following is required:
 - a. Stands or lots shall be elevated on compacted fill or on pilings so that the lowest floor of the manufactured home shall be at the highest of either the base flood elevation or this chapter's higher regulatory standards. A state registered land surveyor shall submit a certification to the director of inspection and code enforcement stating that the floor is at, or above, the base flood elevation;
 - b. Adequate surface drainage and access for a hauler are provided; and
 - c. In the instance of elevation on pilings:
 1. Lots are large enough to permit steps;
 2. Piling foundations are placed in stable soil no more than ten (10) feet apart; and
 3. Reinforcement is provided for pilings more than six (6) feet above the ground-level.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-4.4. - Variance procedures.

The board of standards and appeals, as established by the community, shall hear and render judgment on requests for variances from the requirements of this chapter.

- (1) Any applicant for a permit from the department of inspection and code enforcement required by this chapter whose application has been refused or revoked, or any person who has been ordered by the director in incurring any expense, or any person who feels that there are practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships involved in carrying out the strict letter of this chapter, or where it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision, or any determination made by the director may, within fifteen (15) days after being notified of such refusal or order, appeal from the decision of the director to the board of standards and appeals by giving the director notice in writing that he does so appeal. Said notice shall be accompanied by a check in the amount indicated in Chapter 8 Building Code Amendments of Jefferson Parish, "Schedule of Appeal Fees" payable to the Parish of Jefferson, which amounts is to be retained by the parish.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the board to:
 - a. Hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the director in the enforcement of this chapter;
 - b. Hear and decide all matters referred to it or upon which it is required to pass under this chapter;
 - c. Pass upon appeals where there are practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships in the way of carrying out the strict letter of this chapter, to vary or modify the application of any of the regulations or provisions of this chapter relating to the construction or alteration of buildings or structures so that the spirit of this chapter shall be observed, public safety and welfare secured, and substantial justice done; and
 - d. Interpret the intent or meaning of this chapter and so advise the director and to recommend to the council such amendments or revisions which may be required to clarify the wording as well as recommend amendments or revisions as may be required from time to time to meet the changing condition.
- (3) Variances may be issued:
 - a. In cases generally limited to construction and substantial improvements to be erected on a lot of one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) acre or less in size contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed below the base flood elevation, in conformance with:
 1. A showing of good and sufficient cause, and
 2. A determination that failure to grant the variance would result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances;
 - b. Only upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard to affect relief and for other development necessary for the conduct of a functionally dependent use; and
 - c. In situations which could result in an undue delay in construction when all of the above conditions have been met and the requested variance will not increase the cost of the flood insurance, the board may grant a variance.
- (4) In order to execute the above mentioned powers, the board of standards and appeals may reverse or affirm wholly or in part, or may modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed from and may make such order, requirement, decision, or determination

of the director, or to decide in favor of the applicant on any matters on which it is required to pass under this chapter.

- (5) Decisions of the board of standards and appeals should state the variances or denials granted and conditions, if any, as they may require in such action. The decisions shall be filed in the office within ten (10) working days after the hearing and a certified copy sent to the applicant by certified mail. The director must abide in the actions taken by the board.
- (6) In those instances where a variance is granted, the appellate shall be given a written notice that a structure built with the lowest floor elevation below the BFE will then have the cost of flood insurance commensurate with the increased risk resulting from the reduced lowest floor elevation.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-4.5. - Final body of variance appeal.

- (a) The parish council shall be the final body of appeal to hear petitions supporting variances in this chapter after all other avenues of appeal have been exhausted.
- (b) In order to execute the above-mentioned powers, the parish council may reverse an action wholly or in part, or may modify the order, requirement, decisions, or determination appealed from and may make such order requirement, decision, or determination of the director of inspection and code enforcement and the board of standards and appeals, or decide in favor of the applicant on any matters on which it is required to pass under this chapter.
- (c) Decisions of the parish council should state the variances or denials granted and conditions, if any, as they may require in such action. The decision shall be filed in the office of inspection and code enforcement within ten (10) days after the hearing and a certified copy sent to the applicant by certified mail. The director of inspection and code enforcement and board of standards and appeals must abide by the actions taken by the parish council.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-4.6. - Recording of base flood elevation variance affidavit.

Any applicant whose variance from the base flood elevation is approved by the board of standards and appeals or the parish council shall record in the conveyance records of the Clerk of Court of Jefferson Parish an affidavit indicating that the applicant's property does not meet the required base flood elevation of the parish. Verification of the applicant's recorded affidavit shall be presented to the department of inspection and code enforcement prior to the issuance of a use and occupancy certificate.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

ARTICLE V. - (14-5) PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION

Sec. 14-5.1. - General standards.

In all areas of special flood hazards, the following provisions for permits are required for all new construction and substantial damage/improvement to insure sites are reasonably safe from flooding:

- (1) Shall be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy;

- (2) Shall be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damage;
- (3) Shall be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage;
- (4) Shall be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding;
- (5) All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system;
- (6) New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system and discharge from the systems into flood waters;
- (7) On-site waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding.
- (8) *First floor elevation required.*
 - a. The first floor elevation of new residential structures or substantial damage/improvement structures within a special flood hazard area shall be at the highest of either the base flood elevation of a one hundred-year storm or meet the requirements of this chapter's higher regulatory standards;
 - b. The first floor elevation of new nonresidential structures or substantial damage/improvement structures within a special flood hazard area shall be at the highest of either the base flood elevation of a one hundred-year storm or meet the requirements of this chapter's higher regulatory standards, if below the base flood elevation, that together with its attendant utility and sanitary facilities be flood-proofed up to the level of the base flood elevation of a one hundred-year storm:
 - 1. Where flood-proofing is utilized for a particular nonresidential structure, a state registered architect or state registered civil engineer shall certify that the flood proofing methods and materials are adequate to withstand the flood depth pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces and other factors associated with the base flood, and a record of such certificates indicating the specific elevation in relation to mean sea level to which such structures are flood-proofed shall be maintained by the department of inspection and code enforcement including but not limited to electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment, and other service facilities designed and/or located to prevent water entry to accumulation.
- (9) Requirement for lowest floor of new construction to be elevated at or above the level of the one hundred-year flood.
 - a. *Responsibilities of the department of inspection and code enforcement regarding first floor elevation:*
 - 1. It shall be the responsibility of the department of inspection and code enforcement to act as repository for first-floor elevation records and to assign required first-floor elevation. The notation shall be made on the face of the building permit. The first floor elevation of new residential livable areas and substantial damage/improvements must, as a minimum, be elevated to the one hundred-year base flood elevation, as determined by the FEMA Revised Preliminary DFIRM's of February 15, 2016, for Community No. 225199 and also in accordance with "Higher Regulatory Standards" stipulated in this chapter for certain designated areas of unincorporated Jefferson Parish.
 - 2. Minimum floor elevation requirement for new construction and substantial damage/improvement:

ZONE	
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AE	Base flood elevation or this chapter Higher Regulatory Standards
V	See map for specific base flood elevation.
X	See this chapter Higher Regulatory Standards

3. All new construction and substantial damage/improvement within zones V1-30, VE:
 - i. Shall be elevated on adequately anchored pilings or columns, and securely anchored to such piles or columns so that the lowest horizontal portion of the structural members of the lowest floor (excluding the pilings or columns) is elevated to or above the base flood elevation; and
 - ii. That a state registered architect or state registered civil engineer certify that the structure is securely anchored to adequately anchored piling or columns in order to withstand velocity waters and hurricane wave wash. The space below the lowest floor shall be free of obstructions or shall be constructed with "breakaway walls" intended to collapse under stress without jeopardizing the structural support of the structure so that the impact on the structure by abnormally high tides or wind driven water is minimized. Such enclosed space shall not be used for human habitation and area use is restricted to parking, storage, or building access only. Within VE zones, fill shall not be used for structural support of buildings.
- b. *Responsibilities of the department of inspection and code enforcement regarding grade certificate.* Upon application for a building permit and prior to the issuance of a use and occupancy certificate, the applicant must present an elevation certificate to the department of inspection and code enforcement which shows the mean sea level elevation of the first floor of the structure, and any electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment and any other service facilities, as certified by a registered civil engineer or land surveyor, using the benchmarks established by the department of public works, and certification that requirements of Article 202 et seq. of the parish building code, or the elevation requirements contained herein, whichever is the more restrictive, have been complied with within the flood-prone or high hazard areas.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.2. - Specific standards.

In all areas of special flood hazards where base flood elevation data has been provided as set forth in this chapter, the following provisions are required:

- (1) *Residential construction.* Permits issued for new construction and substantial damage/improvement of any residential structure, must have the required mean sea level, as defined, elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) and the base flood elevation of the one hundred-year storm. New construction and substantial improvement of any residential structure, shall have the lowest floor (including basement), elevated to or above the base flood elevation. A registered professional engineer, architect, or land surveyor shall submit a certification to the department of inspection and code enforcement that the standard of this subsection as proposed in this chapter is satisfied.

- (2) *Nonresidential construction.* Permits issued for new construction and substantial damage/improvement of any commercial, industrial or other nonresidential structure shall either have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the base flood elevation or together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be designed so that below the base flood elevation the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy, flood-proofed up to the level of the prescribed base flood elevation. A registered professional engineer or architect shall develop and/or review structural design, specifications, and plans for the construction, and shall certify that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice as outlined in this subsection. A record of such certification which includes the specific elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which such structures are flood-proofed shall be maintained by the department of inspection and code enforcement.
- (3) *Enclosures.* New construction and substantial damage/improvement, with fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage in an area other than a basement and which are subject to flooding shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
- a. A minimum of two (2) openings on separate walls having a total net area of not less than one (1) square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided; and
 - b. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one (1) foot above grade. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
- (4) *Manufactured homes.*
- a. Require that all manufactured homes to be placed within the special flood hazard area shall be installed using methods and practices which minimize flood damage. For the purposes of this requirement, manufactured homes must be elevated and anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors. This requirement is in addition to applicable state and local anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces.
 - b. Require that manufactured homes that are placed or substantially improved within the special flood hazard area be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is elevated to or above the base flood elevation or higher regulatory standards of this chapter and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement on sites: (i) outside of a manufactured home park or subdivision, (ii) in a new manufactured home park or subdivision, (iii) in an expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision, or (iv) in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision on which a manufactured home has incurred "substantial damage" as a result of a flood.
 - c. Require that manufactured homes be placed or substantially improved on sites in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision with the special flood hazard area that are not subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this section be elevated so that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or above the base flood elevation or higher regulatory standards of this chapter.
- (5) *Recreational vehicles.* Require that recreational vehicles placed on sites within Zones A1-30, AH, and AE on the community's FIRM either (i) be on the site for fewer than one hundred eighty (180) consecutive days, or (ii) be fully licensed and ready for highway use, or (iii) meet the permit requirements of 14-4.3(a), and the elevation and anchoring requirements for "manufactured homes" in paragraph (4) of this section. A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on

its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.3. - Standards for subdivision proposals.

- (a) All subdivision proposals including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall be consistent with this chapter.
- (b) All proposals for the development of subdivisions including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall meet floodplain development permit requirements of this chapter.
- (c) Base flood elevation data shall be generated for subdivision proposals and other proposed development including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions which is greater than fifty (50) lots or five (5) acres, whichever is lesser, if not otherwise provided pursuant to this chapter.
- (d) All subdivision proposals including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards.
- (e) All subdivision proposals including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage.
- (f) *Storm-water run-off detention.*
 - (1) For all proposed developments, other than single-family residential, totaling ten thousand (10,000) square feet or more (all phases), and all single-family residential developments totaling five (5) acres or more (all phases), the ten-year storm event post-development rate of run-off shall not exceed the ten-year storm event pre-development rate of run-off. To insure that the post-development rate of run-off does not exceed the pre-development rate of run-off, on site detention will be required in a manner approved by the Jefferson Parish Department of Public Works. The detention system cannot release water from the site at a rate greater than the pre-development rate of run-off.
 - (2) The design concepts for detention facilities and determination of storm run-off shall be consistent with sound hydrological and hydraulic engineering principles and practices, and the provisions of the Jefferson Parish "Storm Drainage Design Manual" dated 1981, or any subsequent revision thereof, and "Parking Lot Storm Run-Off Detention Manual" prepared by the Engineering Division of the Jefferson Parish Department of Public Works. The director of public works shall approve any and all modifications to the drainage manuals.
 - (3) The developer shall submit drainage design calculations including a drainage map along with engineering plans to the department of public works for approval by the director of the department of engineering and the director of the department of capital projects. The drainage map shall include a lien diagram reflecting the existing drainage system from the outfall end of the proposed development to the receiving outfall canal, reflected in the applicable current master drainage plan. The developer shall also submit calculations showing the impacts to the detention facility from a one hundred-year storm event.
 - (4) Drainage calculations shall consider all relevant information that would affect the hydraulics of the drainage system including, but not limited to, the following: (1) drainage basin characteristics; (2) system hydraulics; and (3) other external influences upstream and downstream from the drainage system that may impact or be impacted by the proposed system. Drainage calculations shall consist of: (1) ten-year pre-development flow; (2) ten-year post-development flow; (3) description of release facility and volume of release versus depth of storage in detention facility for ten-year and one hundred-year storm events; (4) maximum depth of water in the detention

facility for design storms; (5) description of impact to the proposed facility resulting from increased depth of storage; and (6) the description of how the system will be maintained.

- (5) Unless unstable or highly erosive soil conditions indicate a lower design velocity is desirable, or unless ditch paving at the outlet is provided, the maximum velocity for culvert design shall adhere to the criteria in the Jefferson Parish "Storm Drainage Design Manual" dated 1981, or any subsequent revision thereto.
- (6) The director of the department of public works shall review for approval each proposed development covered by this section prior to the issuance of permits to proceed with said development. Any decision in which the director of public works denies a request or which requires a variance shall be submitted to the board of standards and appeals for review and recommendation. Decisions of the board of standards and appeals recommending approval of a variance shall be submitted for final approval by the parish council.
- (7) Any denial of a variance request by the board of standards and appeals may be appealed to the parish council for final resolution.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.4. - Standards for areas of shallow flooding (AO/AH Zones).

Located within the areas of special flood hazard established in this chapter are areas designated as shallow flooding. These areas have special flood hazards associated with flood depths of one (1) to three (3) feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable, and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow; therefore, the following provisions apply:

- (1) All new construction and substantial damage/improvement of residential structures shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the base flood elevation or the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the community's FIRM (at least two (2) feet if no depth number is specified);
- (2) All new construction and substantial improvements of nonresidential structures:
 - a. Shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the base flood elevation or the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the community's FIRM (at least two (2) feet if no depth number is specified), or
 - b. Together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, shall be designed so that below the base specified flood depth in an AO Zone, or below the base flood elevation in an AH Zone, level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads of effects of buoyancy;
- (3) A registered professional engineer or architect shall submit a certification to the department of inspection and code enforcement that the standards of this section, as proposed in this chapter, are satisfied; and
- (4) Shall require within Zones AH or AO adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes, to guide flood waters around and away from proposed structures.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.5. - Recognition of cumulative substantially damaged structure status.

The definition for cumulative substantially damaged structures is recognized and accepted by Jefferson Parish to allow for mitigation assistance of flood-damaged properties under the substantial

damage structure requirements of increased cost of compliance (ICC) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and its flood policies.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.6. - Higher regulatory standards for specific designated areas of unincorporated Jefferson Parish.

- (a) Where the Flood Zone is "X", "X Protected by Levee", or "0.2% annual chance of flooding" on the February 15, 2016 Preliminary DFIRM, in areas inside the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for both the East and West Banks of the Mississippi River of unincorporated Jefferson Parish:
 - (1) Any new residential structure or mobile home:
 - a. The lowest floor is required to be elevated to eighteen (18) inches above the centerline of the Street.
 - b. Utilities are required to be protected with flood-resistant materials to eighteen (18) inches above the centerline of the Street.
 - (2) Any new nonresidential, commercial, or industrial structure:
 - a. The lowest floor is required to be elevated or dry-floodproofed to six (6) inches above the centerline of the Street.
 - b. Utilities are required to be protected with flood-resistant materials to six (6) inches above the centerline of the Street.
- (b) Where the flood zone is "AE" on the February 15, 2016 Preliminary DFIRM, in areas inside the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for both the East and West Banks of the Mississippi River of unincorporated Jefferson Parish:
 - (1) Any new or substantially damaged/improved residential structure or mobile home:
 - a. The lowest floor is required to be elevated to eighteen (18) inches above the centerline of the Street.
 - b. Utilities are required to be protected with flood-resistant materials to eighteen (18) inches above the centerline of the Street.
 - (2) Any new or substantially damaged/improved nonresidential, commercial, or industrial structure:
 - a. The lowest floor is required to be elevated or dry-floodproofed to six (6) inches above the centerline of the Street.
 - b. Utilities are required to be protected with flood-resistant materials to six (6) inches above the centerline of the Street.
- (c) Where the flood zone is "AE" on the November 9, 2012 Preliminary DFIRM, in areas outside the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) of unincorporated Jefferson Parish:
 - (1) Any new or substantially damaged/improved structure (residential, mobile home, nonresidential, commercial, or industrial):
 - a. The lowest floor is required to be elevated to the BFE on the Preliminary 2012 DFIRM plus two (2) additional feet of freeboard; and the total floor area of any enclosed area below the BFE shall not exceed two hundred ninety-nine (299) square feet, including breakaway walls.
 - b. Utilities are required to be protected with flood-resistant materials to the BFE on the Preliminary 2012 DFIRM plus two (2) additional feet of freeboard.

- (d) In no instances of items (a) or (b) above, will a new structure be elevated or flood-proofed or a new utility be protected below -3.5 NAVD.
- (e) Until the February 15, 2016 Preliminary DFIRM is declared final by a FEMA issued letter of final determination, in no instances of items (a), (b), or (c) above, will a new structure be elevated or flood-proofed or a new utility be protected below the BFE on the March 23, 1995 Effective FIRM.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.7. - Coastal high hazard areas.

Located within the areas of special flood hazard established in this chapter are areas designated as coastal high hazard areas (Zones V1-30, VE, and/or V). These areas have special flood hazards associated with high velocity waters from tidal surges and hurricane wave wash; therefore, in addition to meeting all provisions outlined in this chapter, the following provisions must also apply:

- (1) The elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor (excluding pilings and columns) of all new and substantially improved structures must be obtained, whether or not such structures contain a basement. The department of inspection and code enforcement shall maintain a record of all such information.
- (2) All new construction shall be located landward of the reach of mean high tide.
- (3) All new construction and substantial improvements shall be elevated on pilings and columns so that:
 - a. The bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor (excluding the pilings or columns) is elevated to or above the base flood elevation; and
 - b. The pile or column foundation and structure attached thereto is anchored to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components. Water loading values used shall be those associated with the base flood. Wind loading values used shall be those required by applicable state or local building standards. A registered professional engineer or architect shall develop or review the structural design, specifications, and plans for the construction, and shall certify that the design and methods of construction to be used are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of this section.
- (4) All new construction and substantial improvements shall have the space below the lowest floor either free of obstruction or constructed with non-supporting breakaway walls, open wood lattice-work, or insect screening intended to collapse under wind and water loads without causing collapse, displacement, or other structural damage to the elevated portion of the building or supporting foundation system.
 - a. For the purpose of this section, a breakaway wall shall have a design safe loading resistance of not less than ten (10) and no more than twenty (20) pounds per square foot. Use of breakaway walls which exceed a design safe loading resistance of twenty (20) pounds per square foot (either by design or when so required by local or State codes) may be permitted only if a registered professional engineer or architect certifies that the designs proposed meet the following conditions:
 - 1. A breakaway wall collapse shall result from a water load less than that which would occur during the base flood; and
 - 2. The elevated portion of the building and supporting foundation system shall not be subject to collapse, displacement, or other structural damage due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components (structural and nonstructural). Water loading values used shall be those associated with the base flood. Wind loading values used shall be those required by applicable state or local building

standards. Such enclosed space shall be useable solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage. Such space shall not be used for human habitation.

- (5) The use of fill for structural support of buildings is prohibited.
- (6) Man-made alteration of sand dunes and mangrove stands that increase potential flood damage is prohibited.
- (7) *Manufactured homes.* Manufactured homes placed or substantially improved within Zone V1-30, V, and VE on the community's FIRM shall meet the standards of paragraphs (1) through (6) of this section on sites: (i) outside of a manufactured home park or subdivision; (ii) in a new manufactured home park or subdivision; (iii) in an expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision; or (iv) in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision on which a manufactured home has incurred "substantial damage" as the result of a flood. Manufactured homes placed or substantially improved on other sites in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision within Zones V1-30, V, and VE on the community's FIRM shall meet the requirements of this chapter.
- (8) *Recreational vehicles.* Recreational vehicles placed on sites within Zones V1-30, V, and VE on the community's FIRM must either: (i) be on the site for fewer than one hundred eighty (180) consecutive days, or (ii) be fully licensed and ready for highway use, or (iii) meet the requirements in 14-3.3 of this chapter and paragraphs (1) through (6) of this section. A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.8. - Severability.

If any section, clause, sentence, or phrase of this chapter is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.9. - Penalties for non-compliance.

Under the authority of the Building Code of Jefferson Parish, the director of the department of inspection and code enforcement is authorized to enforce the provisions of the current adopted technical codes. No structure or land shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted, or altered without full compliance with the terms of this chapter and other applicable regulations. The owner or general agent of the building or premises where a violation of any regulation pertinent to the special flood hazard areas has been committed or exists, or the general agent, architect, building contractor, or any other person who assists in any violation of the pertinent flood regulations or who maintains any building or premises in which the violation exists shall be punished as provided in Chapter 1, section 1-10, "Penalty: maximum: continuing violations" of the Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.10. - Floodplain management in adjoining parishes.

- (a) Consideration of individual floodplain management programs in Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Charles Parishes shall be given in an approach to overall flood management in the Metropolitan New Orleans area.

- (b) In riverine situations, adjacent communities and the state coordinating office will be notified prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and copies of such notification will be submitted to FIA. The flood-carrying capacity of altered or relocated portions of any watercourse will be maintained.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)

Sec. 14-5.11. - Priority of flood-prone area regulations.

All regulations described in this chapter represent minimum standards and supersede all existing ordinances which require lower standards.

(Ord. No. [25261](#), § 2, 11-2-16)