Press Release- Invitation to Participate

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Seeking Citizen and Stakeholder Input to Complete the Hamilton County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

(March 11, 2020) Albany, NY- The County of Hamilton, in partnership with New York State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYSDHSES), the University at Albany's Visualization and Informatics Laboratory (AVAIL), and Mountain View Planning, is currently updating the Hamilton County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This update is part of a state pilot program, funded by FEMA and administered by NYSDHSES. It is tasked with testing web-based software and integrated planning approaches designed for local hazard mitigation planning across New York State. AVAIL, a software laboratory in UAlbany's Geography and Planning Department, is working with Mountain View Planning to lead Hamilton County through the pilot hazard mitigation planning effort.

A hazard mitigation plan provides communities with an opportunity to work together to identify risk, evaluate vulnerabilities and develop strategies for risk reduction. Hamilton County currently has no Hazard Mitigation Plan, and one must be approved by FEMA in order for the County and participating jurisdictions to be eligible for FEMA mitigation grant funds.

Initial meetings with the Steering Committee and Core Planning Group kicked off in August 2020. Mountain View Planning and AVAIL are currently conducting jurisdictional interviews to collect community specific information. The information collected throughout the process is currently being reviewed and consolidated into the MitigateNY software.

Citizens of Hamilton County and other stakeholders are invited to take part in developing the web-based plan. We encourage you to visit the site and to provide your feedback and input. You know your community, so please tell us about it!

The plan can be found on the Hamilton County website and at
https://www.hamiltoncounty.com/sites/default/files/2020-11/Invitation%20to%20Participate.pdf
Please feel free to click around. Specific towns and villages can be accessed via a "dropdown menu" in the top navigation panel. Selecting a town or village will orient the entire website to that community's information.

Please tell us about your experience with natural hazards and your thoughts on how best to manage those hazards by taking the public participation survey. Thanks in advance for taking the survey! You are contributing your part to make your community safer!

You can email your questions, comments, concerns, feedback etc to AVAIL at availabs@gmail.com.

** Please note that the software is still being tested, and as a result you may experience bugs. The website is best viewed via laptop or desktop computer through a modern web-browser such as Edge, Chrome, or Firefox.

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About University at Albany SUNY's Albany Visualization And Informatics Laboratory (AVAIL): AVAIL is a data science planning laboratory within the State University of New York at Albany. AVAIL is on a mission to empower a new generation of students to assimilate computer science knowledge and subject-matter expertise in the fields of data science and analytics. In doing so, AVAIL is formulating innovative solutions for private business and government.

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Seeking Citizen and Stakeholder Input to Complete the Hamilton County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

(November 9, 2020) Albany, NY- The County of Hamilton, in partnership with New York State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYSDHSES), the University at Albany's Visualization and Informatics Laboratory (AVAIL), and Mountain View Planning, is currently updating the Hamilton County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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If you have expertise to offer to planning process, please reach out to the University at Albany's AVAIL laboratory via email at: availabs@gmail.com

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