

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: January 15, 2008

TITLE: A Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Sign a Statement of Understanding with the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross to Allow the Century Center to be Used as an Emergency Shelter

DEPARTMENT: Fire-Rescue, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ____ NO <u>x</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A: Resolution B: Statement of Understanding	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Fire Chief, Travis Crabtree - 918-7349 Public Works Director, George Seiz – 918-7427 Recreation & Parks Director, Anita Jones-McNair, 918-7381

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the Town of Carrboro to work jointly with the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross in opening the Century Center as an emergency shelter during extreme times of need. The town staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign the Statement of Understanding.

INFORMATION

Currently, all emergency shelters are opened and controlled by Orange County Emergency Management. Due to the impact that major fires, natural disasters and inclement weather have on our population, it is recommended that the town have its own emergency shelter in cooperation with the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Many times emergencies happen without warning, with an emergency generator in place at the Century Center later this year, it seems appropriate to assist the greater public with an emergency shelter that is in close proximity. There are only two emergency shelters in Orange County to serve the 121,991 residents, (Smith Middle School located at 9201 Seawell School Road and C. W. Stanford Middle School located at 308 Orange High School Road) that are controlled by Orange County Emergency Management.

With an emergency shelter inside the town, it is believed that essential needs can be provided to those impacted in an expedited manner. This shelter also assists those impacted, by keeping them in close proximity to their residence and potentially their work. The Chapel Hill YMCA is the only other facility in Orange County that has this type of agreement outside of the school system.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Town staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign the Statement of Understanding.