

1. **The floodway is different from the floodplain in that during floods it will carry deep fast moving water. Not just overflow.**
 - Every year there is a one percent chance that Venice Island will be covered with up to 12 feet of fast moving water. This is called the 100 year flood level. There have been two floods in Manayunk recorded history that exceeded the 100 year flood level and may have approached the 500 year flood level. These were in 1869 and in 1902.
 - Every year there is a one in 25 chance for a flood like Hurricane Floyd. This is called the 25 year flood.
 - There have been 10 floods in this century and 18 floods in the last two centuries. That's one every 11 years.
 - The City of Philadelphia enacted ordinances in 1979 in order to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. These ordinances specifically prohibit the type of developments now being proposed.
 - Changes in weather patterns and upstream development in the Schuylkill watershed could significantly alter the flood patterns making flooding both more frequent and more severe.
2. **Police Officer Lee Van Winkle died** during a rescue attempt in 1972. Another Officer, Joseph Johnson, was rescued at the Fairmount Dam after being swept down the river from Flat Rock Road.
3. The **only access** to 1 Leverington is a narrow 2-lane bridge that is shared with Venice Lofts, 123 apartments, and Smurfit Stone, a paper recycling plant. This limited access has the potential for a catastrophe during the next flood. During the flood of September 16, 1999, trailers from Smurfit-Stone were carried around the island. There is a chance that residents could be swept down the river while trying to save their cars. The possibilities for disaster are too numerous to list.
4. The **Smurfit Stone** plant, 5000 Flat Rock Road, purchases, receives, and processes various recyclable materials for shipment to paper mills and other end users of recyclable material. The plant receives loose curbside news from municipal recycling programs in the Philadelphia area for direct consumption by the mill. This is a good business for Manayunk and Philadelphia. The City should be encouraging them to stay here, rather than chasing them away to be replaced with dangerous, unsustainable developments.
5. In a letter from June, 2000 then **Director of FEMA, James L. Witt**, wrote "The City should recognize its potential legal liability for allowing the construction of residences where the possibility of future loss of life and property is not only possible, but likely. Secondly, Philadelphia's continued eligibility for the National Flood Insurance Program could be jeopardized by approval of these projects if the technical basis on which they are deemed to meet federal standards is unsound."

6. Geoffrey M. Goll, P.E., and Joseph J. Skupien, P.E., P.P. of **Princeton Hydro LLC** wrote in their Summary and Conclusions after their hydrologic and hydraulic analyses of flooding along the Schuylkill River in the vicinity of Venice Island.
 - “The issued compliance letter prepared by FEMA regarding the hydrologic analysis prepared by Dr. J. Richard Weggel, P.E., clearly states that the all local floodplain ordinances must be adhered to; and further states that development within the floodway is dangerous and is attributable to loss of life and property and;
 - An analysis of the flood threat to the residents of the proposed apartments indicates that they will annually face a 15 percent chance of flooding on the Island. In addition, if the apartments had been constructed and inhabited at the time of Hurricane Floyd, the residents would have received virtually no advanced flood warning from the National Weather Service. Finally, flood waters on the Island are expected to have risen as rapidly as 1 foot per hour and that the worst of the flooding would have occurred in darkness.”
7. G. C. Henricksen, Jr., **Consulting Meteorologist**, concluded “Venice Island has the least time to respond and complete necessary evacuation in a localized heavy rainfall event. This would cause up to 10 feet of water above island ground level in less than 6 hours of the ending of the excessive rainfall event. Meteorological examples of hurricane Floyd in 1999 and hurricane Agnes in 1972 are a good case in point of such a quick rise scenario. Crest relationships are for reaching flood stage and not as to when Venice Island goes under water. Water levels on the island in excess of 5 feet could be reached in 3 hours or less, and indications are that this occurred during Floyd and Agnes.”
8. **Steve Miller, Deputy Fire Chief** and team leader for rapid-water rescues in Montgomery County MD, said ,regarding residential development on Venice Island, **“It’s pure insanity. I cannot see the logic or reason for this. Unfortunately, I believe it’s going to kill some people.”**