

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Denis McCarthy, Police Chief Harry Rilling, Mayor Richard A. Moccia

STAFF: Michelle DeLuca, Deputy Director of Emergency Services

OTHERS: Assistant Fire Chief Lawrence Reilly; Deputy Chief Kulhawik, Norwalk Police Department; Jennifer Lord, Norwalk Hospital; Karen del Vecchio, IT Director; Bill Mooney, Health Department; Louis Shulmann, Norwalk Transit Authority; Greg Conte, National Weather Service; Robert Kenny, Region 1 Emergency Preparedness; Patrick Malloy, Irene Cronkright, Family and Children's Agency; Ms. Ronnie Teller, Red Cross; David Kennedy, Coastal Fairfield County United Way; Neil Browsky, Norwalk Housing Authority; Dom Sherwood, CL&P

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor Called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STORM READY RECOGNITION

Mr. Conte came forward and explained that he was from the National Weather Service and located in Long Island. He gave a quick update on the weather forecast and explained how the Service decides to announce a flood warning or advisory.

Mr. Conte explained that this was a voluntary program that has been around since the 1998's and tracks severe weather storms. This includes the coast of Connecticut. This past hurricane season has been very fortunate in that there were no major storms.

The original program was started to certify the emergency managers to have them certified to deal with HAZMAT materials and severe weather conditions. Mr. Conte explained that there had been some examples of situations when the weather ready communities experienced disasters. There were numerous people whose lives were saved by the storm warning preparedness training.

Mr. Robert Kenney, from Region 1 Emergency Preparedness, then came forward to speak about the importance of the working relationship. He reminded everyone that Chief McCarthy chairs the Emergency Preparedness Region 1 group. He then gave a

quick overview of the processes that are involved in making the decisions for Region 1. Without the various partnerships between the towns in the various Regions, this job would be much more difficult.

Mr. Patrick Malloy came forward and spoke about the working relationships with the various agencies and municipalities. There is a constant flow of communication back and forth between the Storm Preparedness Agency, the National Weather Service, and the various communities. He thanked Chief McCarthy and Ms. DeLuca for all their hard work.

Mr. Kenny then presented the Mayor, and Ms. DeLuca with a plaque, and a metal Storm Ready Community highway sign and a certificate. The Mayor said that while he was the one receiving the plaque and certificate, he wished to note that it was on behalf of the Fire, Police and Emergency Services Departments, all of which worked very hard to merit this award.

Chief McCarthy then explained that he appreciated being able to pick up the phone to call the National Weather Service directly and get Norwalk specific information

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**** CHIEF RILLING MOVED TO TABLE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 2009**

**** CHIEF MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Black Friday Program Review –

Ms. DeLuca said that there were about 17 retailers invited to the Black Friday Program. About 8 retailers attended and were briefed on various situations that might arise and require emergency assistance. Chief McCarthy said that by creating a broad base of information, it made it worth everyone's while to attend. This type of model works well for the City. He said that Walmart had done a lot of work in terms of addressing safety of those involved. Lohman's also made a major effort to insure everyone's safety. Chief McCarthy said that other items like making sure that the traffic lights on Route 1 were not on flash that day at five a.m. Ms. DeLuca then reviewed some of the retailer's plans to avoid large crowds gathering outside their stores.

EM Webpage –

Chief McCarthy said that tips on Holiday Safety would be included on the Emergency Management webpage. Ms. DeLuca said that safety tips on things like frying a turkey would be posted along with other holiday pointers. Mr. Shulmann from the Norwalk Transit Authority suggested that perhaps some of the safety tips could be put on the buses.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Update from Department/Partner Agencies

Police – No report

Norwalk Hospital – Ms. Lord reported that there had been somewhat of an increase in H1N1 patients. Outreach being done to help doctors inform their patients how to treat those who are ill at home. The hospital is also requesting that children under 18 years of age not come to visit patients at the hospital.

Health Department – Mr. Mooney said that there has been a lot work done on the H1N1 preparedness. The Department has continued to receive a trickle of vaccination. About 1,400 doses have been given to local providers for children with allergies. Only about 15% of the total amount of vaccines will be Thimerisol free, all of which is being given to pregnant women. More people are requesting the nasal vaccine. Appointment Only Clinics are being run and about 300-400 doses are being given out. Once more vaccine is available, the clinics will become walk-in.

Red Cross. Ms. Ronnie Teller said that the Disaster Action Teams are being prepared to handle sanitizers and assisting clients when a disaster strikes. There is a new web site – ct.redcross – where all the classes for the State are listed.

IT – Ms. Del Vecchio asked if the information for the website could be given to IT for broadcast on cable TV and the screen in City Hall. Federal grant application decision is currently on hold.

Coastal Fairfield County United Way – Mr. Kennedy said that there continues to be concerns about H1N1 and he is working to make sure that they have the information for those who call in. The Mayor said that Coastal United Way would be starting their fund raising drive at City Hall soon. Mr. Kennedy said that the United Way often acts as a safety net under the public services. He thanked the Mayor for the support that the City has shown.

Family and Children's Agency – Ms. Conkright from the Family and Children's Agency introduced herself and explained that her agency serves a large cross section of the population. Her staff is stressing that the public needs to use the sanitizing handwash when they come into the agency.

Norwalk Housing Authority – Neil Browsky introduced himself to the group. He is looking forward to getting the information from the Emergency Management site on holiday safety. He said that the information that he receives on disabilities may not be as current as they would like. Moving those with disabilities during severe weather could be difficult without the proper type of information.

Norwalk Transit District - Lou Shulmann explained that the Transit District held a Flu Clinic and that masks are available for staff, along with hand sanitizers. For the first time, the Transit District may hire a contractor to plow for them to free up man power

Chief McCarthy said that he had just been notified that the Fire Department would be receiving 16 cases of masks.

Connecticut Light and Power - Dom Sherwood from CL&P said that there had been no major problems this year with storms. The tree trimming program helped, particularly during wind events. Now with most of the leaves off the trees, the wind damage is significantly reduced. The Mayor said that the coordination between the police, fire, and CL&P has improved.

NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

**** CHIEF RILLING MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS FURTHER STRATEGIES ON SECURITY PERSONNEL.**

**** CHIEF MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Public Safety Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss strategies for security personnel at 4:28 p.m. They returned to public session at _____.

ADJOURNMENT

**** CHIEF RILLING MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** CHIEF MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at _____.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
November 12, 2009
Page 4

