

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:** Richard A. Moccia, Mayor; Dennis McCarthy, Fire Chief, Norwalk Fire Department; Harry Rilling, Chief, Norwalk Police Department;

**OTHERS:**

Karen DelVecchio, IT Dept.; Hal Alvord, Department of Public Works; Tad Diesel, Mayor's Office; Jim Wilkinson, Red Cross Area 1; Rhonda Collins, Norwalk Health; Jennifer Lord, Norwalk Hospital; Barbara Smith, Norwalk Community College;

Call to Order

Fire Chief McCarthy called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2009 MEETING AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Emergency Management Update

Chief McCarthy provided an update on the Volunteer Recruit Program that has been developed by Michelle Deluca where fifty residents have received three hours of emergency training that will be available as a disaster reserve force for emergencies. He suggested that they be used as information runners, coordinators to help manage volunteers and those that respond to help. He added that they have held meetings with hotel operators, grocery store managers, drug stores, etc. to provide guidelines of how they can assist with emergency preparedness and response plans.

Chief Rilling commented that Ms. Deluca has done a great job by continually reaching out to various departments and community groups to inform them of the Emergency Management and VRP process.

## Discussion: H1N1

Ms. Collins provided an update that the City is expecting an allocation of the H1N1 vaccine and stated that there is a limited supply, which will be issued to targeted groups for distribution. She added that there are two (2) shorts required and the first tier is targeted to pregnant women, high risk children, select health care workers with direct face to face contact with children under six years old, day care providers –not nurses. She added that there are weekly updates as the information is constantly changing, and they are working closely with Norwalk Hospital and health-care providers, school nurses office with guidelines for nurses and stressing the communication of hygiene practices.

Chief Rilling asked if the vaccine is being developed or produced, and when was the seasonal flu (regular flue) vaccine being available. Ms. Collins responded that the H1N1 vaccine is being tested, and depending upon the target group could be a mix of either a nasal mist or shot, depending on the specific group, and added that there is a meeting on September 14 at Norwalk Hospital to review vaccine clinics. Chief Rilling asked who will control the vaccine, and is it by appointment, and Ms. Collins answered that there will be a provider agreement from the State Health Department who will sort through the requirements of the vaccine, which will be in minimum 100 dose packages. Mayor Moccia asked if they will be attending the Governor's meeting tomorrow, and Ms. Lord said yes. Chief Rilling offered the assistance of the police headquarters for regular seasonal flu shot administering. Fire Chief McCarthy added that there would be volunteers available to assist as well when the H1N1 batches arrive, and Ms. Collins stated that it would be great to have the new volunteer group on board as the batches arrive in random allocation and help would be appreciated.

Mayor Moccia asked when the seasonal flue shots would be available and Ms. Collins responded September 17. Mr. Diesel asked who outside of the city employees will be offered seasonal flu shots and Ms. Collins answered that is open to the community, and clarified that the H1N1 is not offered beyond the tier 1 target group. Mayor Moccia suggested that the communication items should be very clear to differentiate this vaccine versus the seasonal vaccine. Ms. Collins added that letters had been sent home with school students promoting hygiene and suggesting not to return to school until child was "fever free" for 24 hours after a fever, and stressing proper hand-washing, and cough/sneeze etiquette.

## Updates from Departments

### Fire Department

Chief McCarthy added that the storm ready special beach vehicle is available for emergency beach assistance and will be placed there next year.

### Norwalk Transit District

Mr. Schulman reported that they have made an arrangement to use Norwalk Community College West Campus as a NTD back-up interim location for emergencies, using the parking, electric services for radio network. He added that the SWERPA Evacuation Model by city section is set up to provide transportation to emergency shelter locations such as schools, etc. Mayor Moccia thanked the NTD for taking an active role with organizing emergency transportation systems.

Mr. Schulman added that they are gathering swine flu supplies, antiseptic wipes, masks, blankets, military meals, etc. for the departments to use as needed.

### Police Department

Chief Rilling stated that the Next Gen Computer System and Power Phone (emergency management systems) are currently working out proprietary ownership royalty arrangements. They have made progress with the Fire Department, which has been positively received.

### IT Department

Ms. DelVecchio provided an update on a federal grant application for broad band emergency funds that was completed in conjunction with other state municipalities as a joint program for hospitals and health departments. She added that the award is a long shot as the applications exceeded available funds by seven fold.

### Norwalk Community College

Ms. Smith reported that hand sanitizers have been installed in each classroom and updated cleaning procedures have been put in place to wipe down keyboards daily to provide a cleaner and sanitized environment at the school.

### Red Cross

Mr. Wilkinson stated that Red Cross staff members are available to help with disbursing H1N1 vaccines if needed.

### Department of Public Works

Mr. Alvord stated that he has met with Mike Mocciae on combining assets of the Department of Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department staff to provide specialized emergency assistance where needed.

Mayor Moccia thanked the members for the combined efforts in working together for the city's emergency preparedness efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

- \*\* MAYOR MODDIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.
- \*\* MR. DIESEL SECONDED
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox  
Telesco Secretarial Services

