

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2009**

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

STAFF: Michelle DeLuca, Emergency Management Deputy Director

OTHERS: Hal Alvord, DPW Director; Lawrence Patterson, Human Resources Field Representative, Tad Diesel, Mayor's Office; Jennifer Lord, Norwalk Hospital Emergency Management Coordinator; Bill Mooney, Norwalk Health Department; Karen DelVecchio, Information Technology Director; Alan Henschke, Norwalk Hospital EMS Director; Jim Wilkinson, Red Cross; David Kennedy, United Way; Carol Antonetz, Norwalk Emergency Shelter Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moccia called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Extreme Cold Forecast and Planning Activities

Updates from state conference calls

Chief McCarthy said that Governor Rell is now having daily conference calls with all the municipalities regarding the various shelters and the extreme cold. He then gave a brief overview of the two calls that have taken place.

Activities of Neighboring Communities

Jim Wilkinson, Emergency Director at the Red Cross, said that Norwalk appears to be better prepared than many other communities. The Red Cross is taking a supportive role in the event of emergency.

Update – Emergency Shelter

Ms. DeLuca said that there have been discussions regarding warming centers and the program encouraging people to have emergency kits in their cars. Chief McCarthy said that the three key issues are: first, those who are homeless and protecting them; secondly, those who may be displaced due to fire or other emergencies; and thirdly, those who may lose power and forced to leave for a shelter. Chief McCarthy said that with the shelters, and the Transit District buses available for transportation, there should be enough room in the shelters before the armory would need to be used.

Preparedness activities

The Mayor said that he had received an email from Ms. Cece which raises many good questions such as to whether people would have a way to get to the shelters, if the shelters have enough emergencies supplies and what provisions have been made for pets.

Ms. Antonetz said that the shelters are remaining open and that donations of blankets, hats and scarves would be welcomed. Discussion then followed about the details of the providing services, if and when the Armory should be utilized and how the services are delivered to those in needs.

Ms. DeLuca said that flyers about the shelters and dealing with the extreme cold had been created in both English and Spanish and that they were being handed out in bodegas and the Latino neighborhoods.

Offers of Assistance

Mr. David Kennedy, the president of the local United Way, said that his organization was ready to help as needed.

Others concerns/ issues – Round table.

Mr. Alvord said that his biggest concern was the sanitary crews and the recycling crew who would be collecting on Thursday and Friday because they are in and out of their trucks.

Mr. Lawrence Patterson asked if 2-1-1 had been apprised of how to access the shelters. Chief McCarthy said that he would bring it up at the regional shelter

Ms. Lord said that the Norwalk Hospital was prepared for the situation and that they did not foresee any major problems.

Mr. Mooney from the Health Department said that there were no additional updates from his department at this time.

Ms. DeVecchio said that there were no additional updates from her department at this time.

Mr. Henschke said that there was a slight worry about people making their first calls to the EMS rather than a shelter.

Mr. Henschke said that at the last meeting, he had reported that there was a shift from Sunday to Friday has resulted in a decrease in call, other than the one ice storm on a Sunday.

Mass Notification

Ms. DeLuca said that the City would be transitioning to a new system that would only be used for emergency notification only because with the minute bank will only allow six citywide calls. This service was the second choice on the vendor list and will cost the City less than the present system, which allows unlimited usage.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Moccia adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services