

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MAY 9, 2012**

ATTENDANCE:

Hal Alvord, Department of Public Works; Karen DelVecchio, IT Dept.;  
Karen Del Vecchio, Director of Information & Technology;  
Louis Schulman, Norwalk Transit; Jennifer Lord, Norwalk Hospital;  
Christine Bradley, Library Director; Adam Bovilsky, Human Relations;  
Len Nelson, Norwalk Health Department; Tad Diesel, Mayor's Office

STAFF: Dennis McCarthy, Fire Chief, Norwalk Fire Department;  
Michelle DeLuca, Director, Emergency Management.

Call to Order

Fire Chief McCarthy called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Emergency Management Update

Chief McCarthy stated that the primary objective was to discuss the June 6 program which will be a City-wide presentation on preparedness response and communications. He explained that there is a state-mandated Disaster Exercise in the last week of July and details are in development. Ms Deluca added that there is a regional steering meeting tomorrow and further details about the meeting will be finalized and sent by e-mail to the departments.

Chief McCarthy noted that the Great Hurricane Blow-out campaign will stress "Go Tapeless" to inform residents that taping windows is not recommended as it causes larger sections of broken glass rather than shattering, which can be more dangerous and harmful.

Ms. Lord asked when the Hurricane Season is and Chief McCarthy relied that for southern CT it is August 1 through the late fall.

He added that for program coming up in June, input is always helpful and he asked the members to provide him with any suggestions.

Mr. Alvord stated that there continues to be a lack of understanding and willingness to better dealing with logistics such as generator requirements because if there is a category 3 storm, there is no back-up generator system and City Hall will come to a screeching halt. He added that DPW will have no access to fuel or water and his trucks will not be operational, and this is a critical logistical concern that needs to be addressed.

Chief McCarthy stated that he was disappointed on the Mayor's dismissal of the need for this item in the Capital Budget and agreed with the generator power issue. He added that he will continue to recommend this to the Finance Department to get support from other departments.

Mr. Alvord added that the Region 1 ESF3 plan for shared information among 14 towns is not feasible and there is a better way to talk to the other towns for things such as communication and equipment usage plans. He added that the plan for equipment sharing does not work because equipment gets damaged, and that a better use of the funds is adequate training for an I-95 Emergency Diversion plan. He added that no one ever thinks of logistics and for 911 as an example, stated that the New York model is now being used for the local flooding mapping.

Chief McCarthy added that the regional meeting on logistics has areas that are much beyond the needs of Norwalk and the recommended model needs to be drilled down for better suitability for the towns.

Chief McCarthy asked a member of the public to introduce himself, and Mr. Peter LeBrand stated that he was not sure if this was the proper forum, but he explained a problem with the narrow sidewalks along Marvin School and the road entering Calf Pasture Beach. Chief McCarthy replied that this was not the meeting and suggested that Mr. Diesel from the Mayor's Office could possibly direct him. Mr. Alvord replied that both he and Mr. Diesel have met with Mr. LeBrand and the Transportation Plan for that area is in

development.

Chief McCarthy stated that he had to leave to attend a Personnel Meeting, and left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

### Department/Partner Updates – Roundtable Discussion

Library – Ms. Christine Bradley, Librarian, stated that the boiler has been installed, and she is working on the logistics with the City Facilities Department. She added that regarding the EOC, it would be great to have WIFI at BMHS as that is what residents really need.

Ms. DelVecchio replied that the Board of Ed cut off the WIFI access as kids were using it. She added that emergency access requires technical installation and she will speak to the NPS IT Department to find out what might be available.

### I.T. Dept.

Ms. DelVecchio stated that there needs to be a plan for connectivity for relocation of the EOC. She asked when information will be available for the website, and Ms. Deluca replied that she would forward to her what she has.

### DPW:

Mr. Alvord noted that as mentioned at the last meeting, the evacuation of the DPW to Norden Park was handled with exceptional effectiveness and efficiency by his crew and the Northrop Grumman firm was very cooperative and provided indoor facilities. He added that future such evacuations should include more coverage of outside facilities, and that this is the type of relationship with community stakeholders that needs to be cultivated.

Mr. Alvord stated that fortunately things like the planned disaster exercises provide a real-situation drill and a test of the plan, which is critical with plan preparedness. Chief McCarthy replied that it is situations like these that provide lessons learned to make further modifications to the response

plan.

Norwalk Transit Department: Mr. Schulman stated that the absence of the Police Department at these meetings is inconsistent with the collaborative effort that is necessary to support the Public Safety mission for the City, and he would like to have their attendance. He added that they are storing up emergency supplies for extended staff needs and announced that they now have a maintenance foreman for evenings available during unexpected events. He noted that he will provide the contact information to the Emergency Management department.

Regarding signs on buses, he noted that there is standard material and size and he is happy to put emergency information signs on the inside of the bus along the window panels. He added that it needs to be in both English and Spanish.

Hospital: Ms. Lord stated that they are in the process of developing the expansion plans which will be presented soon.

Human Relations: Mr. Bovilsky stated that there is nothing new to report from the Human Relations Department.

Health Department: Mr. Nelson stated that he is working on the continuity plan for the Health Department.

#### New Items for discussion

#### Summer Safety Fair:

Ms. DeLuca noted that she had attended a Safety Fair in Stamford reviewed the highlights stating the goal is to provide targeted safety messages to residents throughout the City. She added that she would like to have something like this at Calf Pasture Beach to reinforce the need for improved safety measures for the summer season.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 1. Ms. DeLuca noted that as the full team will meet for the June 6 program, they will not have a committee meeting in June.

There were no other items for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox,  
Telesco Secretarial Services