

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 8, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Lt. Paul Resnick, Norwalk Police Dept.; Lenard Nelson, Health Dept.;
Karen Del Vecchio, Director of Information & Technology;
Barbara Smith, Norwalk Community College;
Louis Schulman, Norwalk Transit;
Adam Bovilsky, Human Relations/Fair Rent;
Sherelle Harris, Norwalk Public Library;
Andrew Maguire, Norwalk Hospital;
Tim Walker, Charles Live, Norwalk Amateur Radio Group

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

Call to Order

Fire Chief McCarthy called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Emergency Management Update

Board of Education - School Emergency Update

Chief McCarthy reported that the school assessments are completed with the exception of the high schools and corrections have been made with P.A. systems, shades, and locks. She explained the progress of numbering doors with outside access has been a major improvement of room identification for first responders, and they are working on maps and electronic aerial maps. She added that after the schools are finished, municipal buildings are next for facility assessment.

There was a discussion on the types of maps that are used and Chief McCarthy explained the mapping system. Ms. Smith noted that this would be helpful with NCC as they are looking to develop a mapping system.

Ms. DeLuca spoke about new CT standards have been issued relative to a master plan and those will be incorporated into the guidelines for the Norwalk Public Schools. Chief McCarthy added that health care issues now are being addressed with school nurses as far as medication availability, access and dispensing of medications during emergencies that could occur during lock-down situations. There was discussion on utilizing the School Based Health Centers as a resource in determining medical needs.

Ms. Deluca spoke about table-top training exercises in the spring that will include the new state standards. Chief McCarthy stated that they are planning an evacuation drill to include school relocations and they are in the preparation phase of planning and communications. Discussion included the difficulty with the importance of parent communications and training and how to avoid situations where interference can hinder police response in emergency situations.

Cold Weather/Winter Update

There was discussion of the need for shelter and transportation by the Police Department of homeless individuals that are determined to be in need of shelter. Ms. Harris mentioned that there are a few more residents spending time at the libraries, but there are no unusual incidents to report about homeless individuals and greater attendance at the library.

Sandy Long-term Recovery

Ms. Deluca reported that the recovery center at Fairfield Avenue will remain open for another month, and applications are still in progress. She reported that 26 cases are closed and approximately 50 remain open that cover minor home repairs. She noted that resource agencies are Robin Hood funds, North-Walk, (the 501c3 of the Redevelopment Agency), the Red Cross along with CDBG funds through HUD are all in process. She reported that elevation applications are in progress and most applications are for repairs and mitigation.

Process for Early Closure/Delays – City Hall/City Buildings

There was a discussion on a recent communication breakdown on the delayed opening with City Hall. Ms. DeVecchio stated there needs to be a process for announcing City Hall closing and delayed openings. She explained that Mayor Rilling had notified the City Clerk but the delay announcement was not communicated beyond the Mayor's office. She suggested that a procedure be established with an RSS feed that puts the notice on the website and sends an e-mail or text message to employee cell phones. There was discussion of the issue and that a procedure should be established.

Mr. Bovilsky added that there are personnel issues involved with time and compensation for the hours of delays or closings and those also need to be addressed.

Department Updates/Roundtable Comments

Norwalk Transit

Mr. Schulman stated that they were in the process of evaluation of grants but it was determined that the match requirement makes it unaffordable.

Library

Ms. Sherelle Harris, Assistant Library Director, spoke about the emergency action plan and designation of fire wardens in the buildings. She added that supervisors and staff have completed CPR & First Aid/AED training and have received the certification certificates.

Norwalk Hospital

Mr. Maguire reported that there is much going on with the construction and infrastructure upgrades with utilities and he mentioned the recent burst pipes. He described the new emergency operations and Mass Casualty Plan implementation and there will be staff training with new procedures. He spoke about the HazMats program and new purifying respirators that are being used to replace the old ones.

Chief McCarthy asked about the merger with Danbury and there was a discussion on the lack of secondary emergency facilities in the City. Further discussion included on how the train incident in Bridgeport serves as an example of how Norwalk Hospital would handle the number of casualties involved and condition assessments and transport decisions.

Norwalk Community College

Ms. Barbara Smith spoke about the IP cameras that have been installed and are now operational and the potential of coordination with City Hall. She stated that they are in the process of a security audit with the Norwalk Police Department, and spoke about recent lock down and shelter in-place drills. She discussed the Governor's recent early dismissal announcement and there was discussion of the trend of more upper management involvement by the government.

Norwalk Police Department

Lt. Resnick stated that they are working with Dispatch Operations on protocol card system and the 911 consoles. He added that his area now includes working with community service groups.

Norwalk Health Department

Mr. Nelson spoke about the NAACHO grant received for training with the data system.

Norwalk Amateur Radio Group

Mr. Tim Walker and Charles Live spoke about a volunteer assessment and they will come back with a list of names of individuals that can be called upon to assist during emergencies. Discussion ensued over the Connoisseur Media Group and public service announcements that are available through radio stations 99.9 and WNLK. Further information and direction will be included with the next update and posted on the website.

Chief McCarthy noted that Tad Diesel served the role of Public Information Officer and was very helpful with press releases and other information regarding public safety. He added that the Mayor has yet to determine how this role will be handled with Mr. Diesel's replacement.

TEEX Program – MTA/CT DOT

Chief McCarthy reminded the group about the national emergency training program sponsored by a grant from the MTA and CT DOT at Texas A&M University in May 19-23, 2014. He described the training center and stated that they are developing a recommended list of attendees from the team. It was suggested that emergency operations staff from the hospital would be ideal to attend this training along with other interested members of the municipal team.

There were no other items for discussion.

Next Meeting

It was noted that next meeting would be on February 12, 2014.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services