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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF A FUNDING ALLOCATION FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR), URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) BY REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXERCISES, VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT, AND NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

ISSUE: City Council consideration of accepting funds in the amount of $328,500 available to the City for a two-year period, ending September 30, 2012, from the District of Columbia (D.C.) Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the National Capital Region Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) to support our involvement in regional exercises, volunteer recruitment and training, and National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1)   authorize the City Manager to accept the funding through the Urban Area Security Initiative in the amount of $328,500; and

(2)   execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The National Capital Region (NCR) has received $59,000,000 in Urban Area Security Grant funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to support the regional efforts to prepare for and respond to disasters including terrorism. These funds were allocated by the NCR Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) and the Senior Policy Group (SPG) in July 2010. The investment-area justifications and project plans were developed by various Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG) committees during meetings in December, 2009 and January, 2010. The investment justifications were then sent to DHS as a grant application on behalf of the entire National Capital Region.

DISCUSSION: Alexandria was notified on September 28, 2010 by the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency that the City is eligible to receive a total of $328,500, to be made available over a two-year period, for three separate activities, volunteer recruitment and emergency preparedness outreach, regional and local training and exercises, and National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance. These grants end on September 30, 2012 and are a continuation of a series of grants that we received from 2006 through 2009. The grants currently support two positions in the Fire Department Office of Emergency Management; the grants provide $125,000 for exercises and training, $125,000 for NIMS compliance activities, and $78,500 for recruiting volunteers, emergency preparedness outreach and volunteer management activities.

During the past several years, Alexandria has received grant funds from the UASI program for volunteer management, training, NIMS compliance, and exercises. In 2007, 2008 and 2009, the City received $125,000 for exercises and training. In 2007, 2008 and 2009, Alexandria received $125,000 for NIMS compliance. In 2006, 2007, and 2008 the City received a total of $280,024 for recruitment, equipping, managing and training volunteers for disaster response.

The City continues to conduct many training sessions in the Incident Command System as required to comply with the NIMS. Our City resources have been evaluated against national standards and the results have been entered into a statewide database as well as regional data bases for later use, ensuring our compliance with the National Incident Management System.

Since first receiving these funds in 2007, the City has conducted or participated in many exercises and training sessions, including the recently completed "Chaos '09," a large full-scale exercise which involved the entire Northern Virginia region, as well as 17 hospitals that are members of the Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance. We have exercised our Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team, trained the law enforcement staff at Northern Virginia Community College, conducted an exercise of our response to a nuclear power plant failure at the Calvert Cliffs power plant, held over 12 small exercises of our new emergency response plan, and many other training and exercise activities.

Past volunteer grants have allowed us to recruit, train, equip, and manage volunteers for disaster related services such as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Red Cross, Neighborhood Watch, and others. In addition, the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau developed and has tested a Spontaneous Volunteer Reception Center plan to process unaffiliated volunteers during a disaster. To date we have trained over 400 residents in the CERT program and many more in the other programs utilizing these grants funds.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no match requirement for these grant funds. City Emergency Management staff will administer the grant.

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment 1: 2010 Strategic Plan Frequently Asked Questions
Attachment 2: 2010 Strategic Plan Press Release
Attachment 3: Accomplishments
Attachment 4: NCR FY10 UASI Funding Decisions News Release
Attachment 5: NCR FY'10 UASI Funding News Release

STAFF:
Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief
Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

National Capital Region Homeland Security Strategic Plan
Frequently Asked Questions

Who is in charge of the Strategic Plan? How was it developed?
The National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) oversees the Plan and the Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers Homeland Security Executive Committee are responsible for implementing the Plan, overseeing investments and recommending updates to the Plan each year to ensure that the Region's efforts in homeland security are best aligned with current needs.

The EPC oversaw the review of the original Plan in 2006 and the development of the updated Plan. They directed that the revised Plan build on the last plan and that it focus on regional collaboration and public preparedness which have been central to regional work for many decades.

What is different about this Plan?
The revised Strategic Plan zeroes in on the most important *capabilities* for the Region to work on collaboratively.The National Capital Region (NCR) took a close look at the work of the Department of Homeland Security and assessed its own capabilities. The people who are responsible for preparedness day in and day out at the local and state level, in the public, nonprofit, and private security collaborated to establish these priorities:

- Ensure Interoperable Communications Capabilities
- Enhance Information Sharing and Situational Awareness
- Enhance Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Ensure Development and Maintenance of Regional Core Capabilities

Who participated in revising the Strategic Plan?
Several hundred private, public, and nonprofit representatives ranging from front-line responders to elected leadership participated in revising the Plan. Hundreds of comments were provided in formulating the Plan and revising it.

How will the National Capital Region implement the Strategic Plan?
The Plan sets regional priorities for a three-to-five-year period and guides the Region's investments over the life of the Plan. A set of Investment Plans will detail the implementation strategies for achieving those priorities identified in the Strategic Plan. Investment Plans will define the requirements and costs for achieving the capabilities identified in the Strategic Plan. They will cover a multi-year time period and will typically encompass multiple projects. Additionally, Investment Plans will detail the needs and means to achieve the capability, describe in quantifiable terms how to assess progress in implementation and results and provide the expected timeline and costs for completion.

How will new progress be measured?
The NCR will develop a performance plan with appropriate standards. The NCR's financial and program monitor -- the State Administrative Agent -- will report on financial and programmatic standing of every project each quarter and on progress under the Strategic Plan every year. This will improve management of individual projects and give us more insight into whether we are on track with ensuring key capabilities or if we need to adjust course.

How will the National Capital Region continue to update the Strategic Plan? If a new threat develops, how will the region address these new concerns?

The NCR has been agile in responding to new challenges from planned events such as the presidential inauguration to changing terrorist threats. The NCR will make sure that the plan keeps up with these changes by reassessing the threat and monitoring our progress in meeting these key goals. At least annually the NCR will update its Strategic Plan to reflect changing threats, what we have learned works and does not work in preparing for crises, and what resources we have available.

How does the Strategic Plan address Weapons of Mass Destruction also known as WMDs?

The Plan places a priority on having the capabilities needed to detect, prevent, respond, and recover from all hazards or threats, including those involving weapons of mass destruction. The Plan will help us ensure that we have the technology that will allow us to talk to each other and share data, provide our first responders and others with situational awareness during an event, improve timeliness and accuracy of information provided to the public, increase our capacity to provide medical care in a event where many are injured, and provide our first responders the equipment that they need to respond to all hazards events.

Why is the National Capital Region still working on interoperability?

The Department of Homeland Security gave the NCR its highest grade for its interoperable emergency communications system, and we are just one of six areas in the nation to achieve this recognition. The District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia can share voice and data information at the scene of an incident, command posts, emergency vehicles and emergency operation centers. However, communications and technology continue to evolve, and we need to make sure first responders have the best and most up-to-date technology. As first responders in local jurisdictions continue to upgrade their systems, we must ensure that every government meets the same standards across the Region, so our police officers, fire fighters and EMS personnel can continue to communicate with each other seamlessly.

How will we address power outages such as the ones we witnessed this past summer?

This Plan for the first time lists protection of critical infrastructure such as power, transportation and water as one of the four main priorities of work for the region. The Plan builds on the efforts of the states, localities and private sector in terms of building resilience of our critical infrastructure and services. The objectives and initiatives look at ways which the Region can work better to protect its infrastructure from all hazards -- from storms to non-weather disruption -- and to include the owners and operators of critical infrastructure and key resources more fully in our response and recovery efforts.

The majority of the NCR's critical infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector. Because critical infrastructure and key resources provide water, power, and transportation that are essential on a daily basis as well as during a crisis, the public and private sectors must work closely to ensure their security before, during, and after created and natural disasters.

How does this plan get the Washington Area on its feet after a major snow storm?
Local and state governments are still responsible for providing services in their jurisdictions, such as snow plowing. However, this Plan helps makes sure that all NCR partners are coordinating and communicating with each other during a snow storm or terrorist attack. For example, the plan will help the region to know what roads aren't open, which hospitals have capacity to treat patients, and that the public has good information about how to protect the safety of themselves and their families.

How much money has been spent on homeland security under the first plan? What are the principal benefits that we have realized from those investments?
In addition to state and local resources, the Region has allocated $225,927,000 in federal homeland security grant funding since the release of the 2006 Strategic Plan. Among the accomplishments the Region has realized are:

- The Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX) - a data sharing platform that allows over 70 law enforcement agencies in the Region to share law enforcement records in a secure fashion;
- Regional text alerts that allows emergency information to be sent to anyone in the public with a mobile phone that has signed up to receive the alerts;
- Communications systems that allows first responders to communicate with each other from within the underground tunnels of the Metro system; and,
- Equipment that allows responders to rescue large numbers of people within a Metro tunnel, and an increased capacity of regional hospitals to handle a sudden surge of patients requiring urgent care.

Who are the NCR Homeland Security Partners?
NCR partners include local, state, regional and federal entities; community groups; private sector; non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Is this Plan voluntary or does it impose specific requirements on local NCR governments and/or organizations?
This is the Plan that the NCR's partners have mutually agreed to follow in our work to strengthen our regional preparedness for all types of hazards. It is aligned with strategic plans at the state level, it takes into account Department of Homeland Security policies as reflected in the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, grant guidance, and its other policies.

This Strategic Plan is not an operational emergency plan. It does not explain how the Region should respond to any particular emergency. Because emergency response is a local responsibility, each local jurisdiction has developed its own emergency operations plan that also defines how they interoperate with and support adjoining jurisdictions throughout the Region. These operations plans prescribe how the jurisdictions in the Region will respond to any disaster today; the Strategic Plan establishes the path for improving future response and working together on recovery, prevention, and protection.

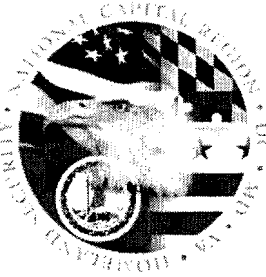**Who is in charge during an incident?**
The incident command system is an organizational structure for responding to complex, multi-jurisdictional incidents. It is a standard practice in the region, and the United States, and has been in place since the 1970s.

All incidents are first addressed at the local level, in the NCR, and everywhere else in the U.S. When a local jurisdiction is overwhelmed, the state provides resources. When the state, in turn, is overwhelmed, the federal government assists.

Tactical operational and response plans are coordinated across the NCR, through specialized work groups of public safety experts, elected and appointed officials, and other stakeholders.

Does the Plan take into account natural disasters like Katrina or is it more focused on terrorist incidents?
The plan takes into account both natural disasters as well as terrorist incidents.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **Oct. 1, 2010**

For more information, contact:
Robyn Johnson, District of Columbia Homeland Security
and Emergency Management Agency, 202-481-3010
Ed McDonough, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, 410-517-3632
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NCR's Emergency Preparedness Council
Releases Regional Homeland Security Strategic Plan

Following the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, government, nonprofit, and private sector officials are releasing an updated Homeland Security Strategic Plan for the National Capital Region (NCR). The plan will guide regional disaster preparations for the next five years, including how the NCR will spend millions in federal grant funds.

The plan has been adopted by the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council, a regional advisory body established through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. The council is composed of local elected officials from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia; public officials from local, state and federal agencies; and representatives from the private and nonprofit sectors. Organizations include: Greater Washington Board of Trade, The Nonprofit Roundtable, District of Columbia Hospital Association, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

"Disaster preparedness must be a partnership," said Frank J. Principi, chair of the Emergency Preparedness Council and a member of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors. "This plan was built upon collaboration and cooperation among the area's governments, nonprofit organizations and business groups. Because a hurricane or terrorist attack can affect the entire metropolitan area, it's critical that we prepare and respond to disasters as a region."

The complete plan is available online at www.ncrhomelandsecurity.org.

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The strategic plan focuses on advancing the region's capabilities in several areas: improving its interoperable communications systems; enhancing its ability to share information during emergencies; protecting critical infrastructure like power and water supplies; and improving its ability to prevent deaths and injuries from terrorism and natural events.

The new plan builds upon the original plan released in 2006, one of the first post-9/11 strategic plans. It will be reviewed and revised annually based on the region's accomplishments, and new information on best practices and lessons learned. It is anticipated that the region will develop an updated strategic plan in 2015.

While it offers a roadmap for regional disaster planning and builds upon much of the work of local and state governments, the strategic plan is not an emergency operations plan. Local and state governments are responsible for responding to emergencies within their jurisdictions. However, the plan outlines the capabilities that the region as a whole needs to develop to prepare for and respond to disasters.

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About the National Capital Region
The NCR encompasses the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland and Virginia, including the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William in Virginia and the counties of Montgomery and Prince George's in Maryland, which include the municipalities of Bowie, College Park, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Rockville and Takoma Park.

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Accomplishments under the
2006 National Capital Region Homeland Security Strategic Plan

The following list highlights the ways in which the National Capital Region (NCR) has worked to strengthen our preparedness for any hazard we face whether it is a terrorist attack, a planned event like a world summit or a presidential Inauguration, or a natural disaster like a blizzard or flood. In different projects, local and state governments, the private sector, and nonprofits have collaborated to ensure that citizens are protected. This list is illustrative not exhaustive. Additional information can be provided on the areas referenced here as well as on other projects.

Citizen Outreach, Education, and Volunteer Training

Volunteer support of response operations and a prepared public are two keys to being prepared for all types of events. Citizen Corps programs recruit and train members of the public into volunteer organizations that in turn assist the local, State and Federal governments in responding to major disasters. Grant funds also support projects to educate citizens on what steps they need to take to be prepared for disasters.

Medical Surge Capacity

The Region enhanced the capacity of hospitals to handle a sudden surge of patients requiring urgent care after a major incident. In particular, these investments provide equipment and training needed to build pediatric and burn capacities. Without this initiative, these hospitals would have difficulty treating trauma patients beyond their regular daily operating capacity. The Region also enhanced the capability of EMS providers to respond to an incident in a coordinated manner, and transport a large number of patients from the scene of an incident to hospitals or clinics.

Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX)

The LInX system allows over 70 law enforcement agencies in the Region to share law enforcement records and information with each other in a secure environment. The system uses advanced research and data-mining algorithms to enhance criminal investigation and intelligence gathering, giving law enforcement access to immense amounts of information. Before LInX, individual agencies had access to their own records but had to make specific inquiries for data from other agencies by phone, fax, or mail.

Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)

AFIS has allowed law enforcement including local police departments to move from ink-and-paper fingerprints to digital fingerprint scanning and processing. The digital fingerprint scans can be compared and added to existing criminal databases much more quickly. Additionally, law enforcement can use scanners in the field to identify those arrested on-the-spot.

Subway Tunnel Communications

In an emergency, it is essential that first responders are able to communicate with each other within Metro's tunnels and from the tunnels to the surface. The NCR installed radio signal repeaters in Metro's tunnels so that first responders could do this. Without this investment, radios would not function in the tunnels.

Subway Tunnel Rescue Equipment and Exercise

The NCR improved its capability to rescue large numbers of people from an incident inside Metro's tunnels. Electric carts that can operate on the Metro rails, and are stored in the tunnels, can be used to carry Fire and EMS personnel down the track to the scene of an incident faster and also gives them the ability to rescue injured passengers much faster. Regional exercises trained and demonstrated the capability to respond to an incident in the Metro tunnels.

Bomb Squad and Hazardous Materials Response Teams

The NCR significantly enhanced the capabilities of its bomb squads with training, exercises, and a large amount of specialized equipment including robotic bomb disposal equipment and other devices necessary to effectively deal with an explosive device threat. Additionally, Hazardous Materials Response Teams have received equipment and training to ensure they can identify and deal with a hazardous materials release anywhere in the Region.

Regional Text Alerts

A Region-wide system can send out emergency information alerts to any citizen with a mobile phone who has signed up to receive these alerts via email or text message. Each NCR jurisdiction has access to the system and can send out its own local alerts or Region-wide emergency information. Without regional coordination to build this effort, this capability would have been developed in an inconsistent manner or not at all, as each local jurisdiction would have set up its own system and with potentially conflicting practices and messages.

Intelligence Fusion and Analysis

The NCR provided its intelligence fusion centers with trained intelligence analysts with top-secret clearances. These analysts receive intelligence from federal sources and local law enforcement, create analytical products, and distribute actionable intelligence to leadership and law enforcement officers. Without this initiative, the intelligence fusion centers would not have been able to create this analytical capability.

Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency

The NCR has enhanced physical security features at key elements of infrastructure and other high-risk or high-consequence targets. This included installing security cameras, physical barricades, enhancing security systems, training security personnel to recognize suspicious behavior, and installing detectors for chemical, radiological, and other hazardous materials.

Radio Cache

The NCR established a cache of 1,500 radios that can be brought quickly to the scene of an incident and distributed to individuals who need them in order to communicate with each other. The cache is most likely to be used in a major, multi-jurisdiction, multi-agency response, in which individuals involved in the response either do not have their own radio or use a radio system that cannot be easily patched-in with the others.

Personal Protective Equipment

The NCR provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to law enforcement officers and additional protective equipment to fire fighters. This includes protective equipment for skin, eyes, and respiratory system. Law enforcement equipment provides the ability to perform law enforcement activities in a hazardous environment. Hospital and public health personnel also received protective medical ensembles for use in case of an outbreak of infectious disease such as an influenza pandemic.

Regional Planning, Exercises and Training

The NCR performed a thorough review of the status of all the emergency operations and public health response plans of its jurisdictions and updated them to meet current standards. Plans were coordinated to ensure that when the plans are implemented the actions taken by different localities complement each other rather than conflict with each other. Without this investment, some localities either would have an out-of-date plan or no plan at all.
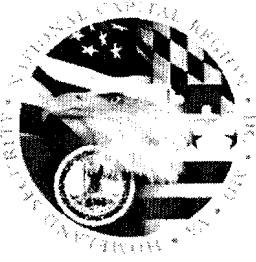
It is axiomatic that plans that are not exercised are not useful. Training is also key in ensuring effective responses to all kinds of hazards. The NCR coordinates its exercise and training to ensure that available resources are provided to areas of greatest need. The Region conducts exercises that simulate large-scale emergencies involving multiple cities, counties and agencies. The assessments of exercises and actual events, known as after-action reports and improvement plans, are used to make changes to better protect the public.

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Pandemic Disease Detection and Protection
The NCR's public health agencies developed an integrated public health monitoring system that receives updates on communicable diseases from the Region's public health facilities and hospitals. The system will alert the Region's public health agencies if a sudden increase or suspicious pattern of reported instances occurs. This allows the NCR to initiate a response quickly and effectively. The NCR also organized pharmaceuticals and supplies (particularly protective equipment) necessary to deal with an outbreak of contagious disease.

Evacuation and Sheltering
The NCR studied and modeled the evacuation traffic patterns in the Region to plan for evacuating affected population from the area of a disaster and to provide adequate shelter to evacuees. The Region also improved traffic monitoring, developed evacuation plans and transportation plans, improved traffic direction equipment, mapped shelter locations, assembled supplies needed to care for people affected by an evacuation, and trained staff and volunteers in shelter management.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **July 16, 2010**

For more information, contact:
Robyn Johnson, District of Columbia Homeland Security
and Emergency Management Agency, 202-481-3010
Rick Abbruzzese, Maryland Governor's Communications Office, 410-974-2316
Bob Spieldenner, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, 804-897-6510
Merni Fitzgerald, Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, 703-324-3189

Homeland Security Grants
Awarded to the National Capital Region

Yesterday, homeland security officials said the National Capital Region will receive $59 million in federal homeland security funds from the Urban Areas Security Initiative Program (UASI) for fiscal year 2010.

The announcement came from local and state officials in the National Capital Region (NCR), representing the District of Columbia Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell.

The money was awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This year DHS pre-identified the funding available to each urban area through the UASI program. As in the past, this year's UASI funds will be used to improve the region's readiness for disasters. The funds will be focused in several key areas, including law enforcement; critical infrastructure protection; information technology integration; and health and medical readiness. Later this summer, officials will announce the specific projects to be funded.

Officials also noted that the region will get $3.57 million from the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program. These grants are intended to help high-risk urban areas across the country plan for catastrophic emergencies like the detonation of a nuclear bomb.

The National Capital Region — which is comprised of 11 local jurisdictions, two states and the District of Columbia — prepares for disasters collaboratively. This unique regional structure, in the area that is home to the nation's capital with the associated elevated risks, requires an equally complex system to determine how to best and most equitably allocate scarce resources such as UASI funds.

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The NCR's elected officials, emergency management, law enforcement, fire and public health personnel, along with the nonprofit and private sectors, work together across the region's jurisdictional boundaries to identify and prioritize projects to improve the region's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Past UASI grants have been used to prepare, train and equip law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, transportation, public health and other first responders, improving their capabilities to prevent and respond to a wide range of potential hazards in the NCR. The funding also has been used to assist public safety officials to communicate across jurisdictional boundaries by enhancing interoperable communications; offer emergency alerts and notifications to the public; educate the public on disaster preparedness; assist special needs populations to prepare for major emergencies; increase medical readiness; and equip first responders to respond to all types of hazardous situations.

The National Capital Region invests in disaster preparations in an efficient, regionally coordinated manner, and focuses the region's homeland security spending on the greatest risks and needs.
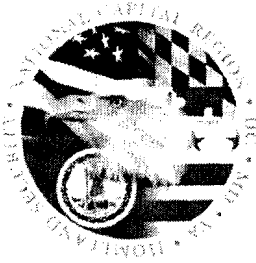
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **Sept. 30, 2010**

For more information, contact:
Robyn Johnson, District of Columbia Homeland Security
and Emergency Management Agency, 202-481-3010
Ed McDonough, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, 410-517-3632
Bob Spieldenner, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, 804-897-6510
Merni Fitzgerald, Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, 703-324-3189

National Capital Region Selects
Homeland Security Projects to Fund

Officials announced today how they will use $59 million in federal homeland security funds. The money will help area bomb squads handle improvised explosive devices; aid hospitals to treat mass casualties; assist law enforcement agencies to share information; and buy protective equipment for police and firefighters.

The announcement came from local and state homeland security officials in the National Capital Region (NCR), representing the District of Columbia Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell.

In July, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security awarded the NCR money through the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program. Some of the projects planned for funding include:

*   **Bomb Squad Upgrades ($511,000):** The region will purchase upgraded equipment for local squads, including electronic jammers to prevent the detonation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These purchases will help the region prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack using IEDs.

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- **Medical Surge Capacity ($3,569,040):** The region will increase hospitals' abilities to treat mass casualties by expanding a program that allows emergency rooms to track the real-time location of ambulances from every hospital in the region; increasing its stockpile of critical medicines; and retrofitting ambulance buses to transport patients who are in wheelchairs or cannot walk.

- **Public Health Planners ($3,000,000):** The region will fund public health planners to continue work on critical projects, including mass fatality management; integration of volunteer doctors and nurses into medical surge operations; and integration of special-needs populations into existing public health and medical surge plans.

- **Law Enforcement Information Sharing ($6,899,703):** The region will continue funding law enforcement information sharing systems. They allow local, state and federal officers to share criminal records, fingerprint records, mug shots and other data, as well as access this information in the field using their cell phones and wireless devices.

- **First Responder Protective Equipment ($3,243,320):** The region will buy personal protective equipment for police and firefighters, as well as continue to develop regional standards for equipment interoperability.

The National Capital Region — which is comprised of 11 local jurisdictions, two states and the District of Columbia — prepares for disasters collaboratively. This includes determining how to best and most equitably allocate scarce resources such as UASI funds.

The NCR's elected officials, emergency management, law enforcement, fire and public health personnel, along with the nonprofit and private sectors, work together across the region's jurisdictional boundaries to identify and prioritize projects to improve the region's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Past UASI grants have been used to prepare, train, and equip law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, transportation, public health and other first responders, improving their capabilities to prevent and respond to a wide range of potential hazards in the NCR.

The funding also has been used to assist public safety officials to communicate across jurisdictional boundaries by enhancing interoperable communications; offer emergency alerts and notifications to the public; educate the public on disaster preparedness; assist special needs populations to prepare for major emergencies; increase medical readiness; and equip first responders to respond to all types of hazardous situations.

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