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REPORT NO: 05-158

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of July 20, 2005

SUBJECT: Office of Homeland Security Update

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE OR CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

The Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee has requested that the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) provide a regular update on our disaster planning, prevention, preparedness, training, exercising, and response and recovery coordination efforts.

This report covers our accomplishments since the January 2005 presentation and our efforts to enhance preparedness within the City and the San Diego region.

DISCUSSION

The City's Office of Homeland Security has accomplished much since our last PS&NS update. The following synopsis covers the major projects this past six months.

Emergency Communications and Notifications

All City emergency service departments have notification policies in place. The Office of Homeland Security, the San Diego Police Department, and the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department coordinate and communicate with each other during significant events and emergency conditions. OHS has developed general guidelines to coordinate the process of ensuring prompt notification of City management and elected officials of any natural or man-made incident which poses a safety risk to the public or city infrastructure.

The City's Director of the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) is the primary point of contact to receive emergency notification information and evaluate its appropriate dissemination to City officials and senior management. The OHS Program Manager will serve as principal backup whenever the OHS Director cannot be contacted within five minutes.

It is anticipated that OHS will receive emergency alerts from one of five principal sources: 911-type alerts forwarded by the Police Department's Communications/Dispatch Center, phone notification from either the Fire-Rescue Department Communications Center or the Police Department's Watch Commander, evaluated "tipper" information from the City's liaison to the Joint Terrorism Task Force, alerts from the County's Office of Emergency Services or Sheriff's Communications Center, or media broadcasts.

Regardless of the source, the OHS Director is responsible for assessing dissemination of the information to City of San Diego management and elected officials, and carrying out the notification when appropriate. When feasible, OHS will attempt to obtain confirmation and supplemental background information from appropriate sources. OHS will also consult with the Police Chief to assess appropriate responses (such as general or tailored threat level adjustments, EOC/DOC activation, etc.) and notification of senior City management and elected officials, when this can be completed in a timely manner. Timeliness is understood to be on the order of five minutes.

The OHS Director will notify the City management and elected officials of significant emergency information/incidents and advise of recommended response actions. If the information is received in late evening or early morning hours, appropriate staff assistants or Chiefs of Staff will be notified before informing the principals. If the emergency information pertains to a localized area, only affected Council members may be informed. The OHS Director with the assistance of the OHS Program Manager will notify appropriate Deputy City Managers and Department Directors. This notification will be made through departmental communications centers where they exist. The OHS Program Manager will inform OHS coordinators as appropriate.

In notifying senior City of San Diego management personnel and elected officials of emergency information, the OHS Director will evaluate the often competing need for timely notification with accurate, confirmed information. OHS will provide periodic updates to the City management and elected officials as appropriate, and inform all

concerned when the incident has been resolved. The attachment to this report illustrates the notification process described above.

Recent Notification Improvements

Lessons learned from the recent tsunami warning indicated that OHS needed ready access to a Public Information Message Line to provide timely information to the public and reduce 9-1-1 calls to the Police Department and the Fire-Rescue Department. We have secured and activated a 144-line phone system (619-236-6876) which allows a maximum ten minute message to be heard by up to 144 callers at one time. The system is designed to be listen only. OHS will initiate the message and update the information as necessary in English and Spanish. The media will be advised when a message has been initiated. In addition, the phone number is listed in the City of San Diego Government section of the public phone directory under Disaster Preparedness.

OHS has also implemented a process to notify all Department Directors via email to keep them informed of evolving situations or updates regarding ongoing issues (e.g., disaster recovery, weather warnings, etc.). We are providing both voice and email updates to City officials to keep all informed of pertinent issues. Meetings have been initiated with the local media to ensure information is being disseminated to the public.

We are working very closely with the County Office of Emergency Services to develop a Joint Information Center plan to ensure one voice, one message from all jurisdictional PIO's during a significant incident or event. This collaboration to issue a united message will reduce confusion, instill public confidence, and improve the use of local media in providing timely and reliable disaster information to the public.

The Office of Homeland Security is working with the Communications Division to use the present and future wireless contract service to provide National Weather Service warnings via text messages on cell phones or pagers to 25 core emergency service managers. This upgraded service will allow for receipt and display of text messages of up to 1,000 characters rather than the standard 160 characters. This system, if implemented, will be backed up with the Emergency Digital Information Service (EDIS) provided by the State of California Office of Emergency Services. EDIS is not sufficient as a primary service due to limited types of warnings, length of messages, slight delays in timing and limited user profiles. We are awaiting the quote for adding this upgrade.

Grant Update

The federal Fiscal Year 2003 and 2004 State Homeland Security Grant Programs and Urban Area Security Initiative Grants expire within the next four months. We are in the process of analyzing all allocations and pending encumbrances to develop an alternate expenditure plan to address critical needs with the funds that still remain.

The funds from these grants have greatly benefited the City. Both the Police Department and the Fire-Rescue Department are nearing completion of their core weapons of mass

destruction (WMD) training and personal protective equipment purchases for first responders. The Police Department has ordered a Command Van and OHS has provided funding for critical infrastructure and key resource security. We are on track to complete the initial security plans for the sites identified under the Buffer Zone Protection Plan.

OHS has purchased sufficient laptop computers to allow for mobile operations in the event the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is unavailable during an emergency. These systems will ensure business continuity. Alternate sites are being identified in various sections of the City to be used as backups to the EOC for mobile operations.

The Office of Homeland Security, in partnership with the County Health and Human Services Agency, has secured a federal grant to develop a Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Plan and exercise for the City of San Diego. The City's plan will be used as a template for development of the regional plan.

The CRI is a pilot program to aid cities by increasing their capacity to deliver medicines and medical supplies during a large-scale public health emergency such as a bioterrorism attack. The CRI establishes a program for timely delivery of medicines during a large-scale public health emergency to City employees and their families. It will enable the City of San Diego to continue the delivery of vital services and reduce recovery times to normal business operation by maintaining a healthy workforce.

An exercise to test the plan has been scheduled during August, 2005. Invitation letters have been sent to the City Manager, Mayor and other elected officials, and all Department Directors requesting active participation. We are anticipating high attendance and expect to finalize our CRI plan after analysis of the exercise.

FY 2005 Grant Spending Plan

The funding allocation for the FY 2005 Homeland Security Grants will continue to meet our regional strategy and will focus on sustaining training and personal protective equipment programs. The funds will provide for an explosive detection team vehicle for the Fire-Rescue Department and SWAT gear for the Police Department.

The current EOC meets the very basic needs of the City and plans are being developed to upgrade the EOC to better serve emergency managers and increase functionality and efficiency during activation. Funding will also be provided to several Department Operations Centers (DOCs) to upgrade their centers. OHS is exploring potential City owned sites to serve as a primary EOC with the current location designated to serve as a backup site.

We are meeting with the State Office of Homeland Security to begin plans for Phase II of the critical infrastructure/key resource site security under the Buffer Zone Protection Program. This program provides both funding and coordination in bringing federal, state and local levels of government, law enforcement and the private sector together to create

Buffer Zone Plans to protect, secure, and reduce vulnerabilities in areas surrounding critical infrastructure and key resource sites.

OHS has implemented Phase I of a City's Business Continuity Plan. This will lead to the development of a comprehensive Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Program that will ensure continued delivery of critical public services in the event of a major disaster. The purchase of the laptops for a mobile EOC is the first step in this process.

Our focus for the FY 2005 funds has been to address regional needs and maximize our urban area grant funds. Through regional cooperation and collaboration, we have allocated significant funds to purchase equipment caches of multi-casualty and decontamination vehicles outfitted with personal protective equipment. These caches will be distributed throughout the county and will be available via mutual aid. This regional allocation has saved significant grant funds that can be directed to meet other critical needs throughout the city and county.

OHS has taken a lead role in the Urban Area Working Group to establish a Regional Homeland Security Technology Partnership to address regional homeland security and interoperability needs. This partnership is funded in FY 2005 with \$3 million in homeland security grant funds. Its focus is to elicit requirements from pertinent regional homeland security stakeholders, assist in prioritization of those requirements, conduct analysis and provide recommendations of available technologies, assist in technology procurement, and pursue additional state and national funds for local initiatives.

The partnership core and review committee consists of OHS, San Diego County Office of Emergency Services, and San Diego State University. Partnership members include the Unified Disaster Council, the Urban Area Working Group, the Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association, the San Diego Fire Chiefs Association, and other military/civilian law enforcement and first responder organizations.

OHS continues to chair the City's Homeland Preparedness Coordination Committee, which has accomplished much in the past six months. An FY 2006 through FY 2007 Office of Homeland Security Strategic Plan was developed based on input from the major city department members. The objectives are clearly identified, time phased, achievable and related to all hazard/risk disaster preparedness, prevention, planning, organization, response, recovery, training, and exercises. In addition, the Police Department is working with the California Highway Patrol, Harbor Police Department and Fire-Rescue Department to develop a general downtown evacuation plan. SDPD also has an evacuation and reentry policy in place that provides guidance for citywide evacuations.

Legislative Update

The Office of Homeland Security is working closely with Government Relations to ensure support for legislation that proposes allocation of homeland security grants based primarily on risk and threat - not on geographic or political factors; and continued distribution of funds under the UASI program.

Homeland Security Appropriations

Through Government Relations, the City supports the House's Homeland Security appropriations of \$850 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program and the House version to allocate \$750 million under the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), which is funded at least partly on a risk-basis. We are also in full support of the Senate funding of \$30 million for the Urban Search and Rescue Program (US&R).

There is a new requirement proposed in the House's Homeland Security bill that 10% of UASI and SHSGP funding be directed solely to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) activities. The City is on record as strongly opposing this proposal as EMS is already an integral partner and component of prevention and first responder efforts.

There are two provisions that are supported by OHS. These include maintaining the provision in the FY 2005 UASI appropriation that permits the "draw down" of funding versus the current reimbursement program. This is critical for funding large ticket items such as multi-casualty response vehicles and interoperable communications projects that can take up to a year or more to complete. The other is preserving the flexibility in using funds appropriated for UASI and the SHSGP so that they are available for certain personnel overtime and operational costs, such as training and heightened security needs during periods of elevated threat levels.

Homeland Security Authorizations

Until July 12, 2005, three different versions of authorization legislation were pending in Congress:

1. S. 21 (Collins R-ME; Lieberman D-CT), which set aside larger percentage of funds for state minimum based distributions and capped regional programs.
2. S. 1013 (Feinstein D-CA; Cornyn R-TX), which better directed funds to those jurisdictions most likely at risk of a terrorist attack and "grandfathered" in existing UASI recipients
3. H.R. 1544 (Cox R-CA), which required 25% in local matching funds, may have positioned states and regions against each other in competition for the same grant funds, and provided an opportunity for states to "oppose" their region's grant application.

H.R. 1544 has been approved by the House and is waiting for a Senate authorization bill to be approved in order to initiate the Conference Committee on Homeland Security. Having recently been nominated by President Bush to head up the Security and Exchange Commission, Chairman Cox will likely try to move his bill out of conference before he is confirmed by the Senate.

On July 12, 2005, the Senate approved the amendment of S. 21 to H.R. 2360, the House Homeland Security Appropriations bill by a vote of 71-26. In order to better direct homeland security funds to high threat areas, Senator Feinstein offered her authorization bill as an alternate amendment to the appropriations bill. Unfortunately that effort failed by a vote of 32-65.

With S.21 attached to a spending bill, there is no longer a stand alone authorization bill to send to conference with H.R. 1544. Instead, the newly adopted Senate authorization language will be debated in the Homeland Security *Appropriations* Conference Committee.

While not successful, the Feinstein amendment provided benefit by creating significant debate on the Floor between Senators from smaller states and Senators from more populous states. Knowing the likelihood of passage was small, the real goal of this debate was to create an unfavorable environment for Conferees to retain authorization provisions in an appropriations measure and efforts have already begun to convince the Appropriations Conference Committee to remove the authorization language.

Of particular note are three factors:

1. Senator Feinstein will be an Appropriations Conferee
2. Department of Homeland Security Director Chertoff, representing the Administration, has submitted a letter to conference opposing State minimum and population based minimums.
3. Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY), Subcommittee on Homeland Security has been supportive of risk-based funding vs. State minimums and population based allocations.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Update

CERT San Diego is the City of San Diego's disaster preparedness program that brings together citizens, firefighters, and regional emergency services. Managed by the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD), CERT San Diego receives support from San Diego City Council, the Office of Homeland Security, County Office of Emergency Services, the business community, Citizen's Corps Council, San Diego CERT Council and dedicated CERT volunteers throughout San Diego.

Firefighters and paramedics teach CERT classes to residents of the City in six-week tuition-free academies. Curriculum includes: home and fire safety, disaster preparedness, search and rescue, medical treatment and triage, how to build a CERT team and respond under the incident command system (ICS) with the Fire-Rescue Department, hazardous materials and terrorism awareness.

In the first six months of 2005, CERT San Diego has nearly doubled its graduate member base from the previous year to 181 certified volunteer civilian disaster service workers.

The 2005 focus has shifted to creating new regional teams from individual members, recruiting community groups to build "instant teams," targeting and recruiting teams in under-represented areas and potential at-risk areas.

From March 2005 through June 2005, CERT San Diego graduated 80 citizens. A third academy is scheduled for September/October 2005. CERT academies enhanced our existing teams in Scripps Ranch, Navajo and Tierrasanta and cultivated new collaboration with San Diego State University. The program started training two new teams in the mid-city area - University Heights and Talmadge, and has plans to broaden the mid-city, inner-city and South Bay outreach.

CERT by Council District

- CD 1 La Jolla, University City, Rancho Penasquitos, Rancho Bernardo
- CD 2 Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach, Downtown, Center City
- CD 3 University Heights, Talmadge, North Park, City Heights
- CD 4 Encanto, Golden Hill, City Heights, Emerald Hills, Southeast San Diego
- CD 5 Scripps Ranch, Mira Mesa, Rancho Penasquitos
- CD 6 Bay Park, Clairemont, Serra Mesa, Kearny Mesa, Mission Bay, Pacific Beach
- CD 7 Tierrasanta, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville, SDSU, College Area
- CD 8 Golden Hill, South Bay

School CERT Programs


CERT cannot certify anyone under the age of 18, but it can train school staff and PTA's, parents and residents in school environs. School districts are eligible for Safe School grant funding, which provides an opportunity for synergy and potential funding for program development.

There are several CERT San Diego school based initiatives in development. The first is Team Safe-T. SDFD and CERT San Diego are partnered with the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, American Red Cross, County Office of Emergency Services and California Professional Firefighters Association to launch a new school and home safety, anti-terrorism and preparedness program. Locally, it will launch in five San Diego City schools in October. The curriculum includes five-day training for school children on home and family preparedness, fire safety and evaluation, multi-hazard drills, drop, cover and hold drills and community preparedness awareness. The program should expand county-wide.


The second CERT school initiative is Monroe Clark School - City Heights (Council Districts 2, 4, 7). SDFD is working with administrators at the school to build a program to train parents and PTA members surrounding the school on CERT and public safety. This school has a Safe Schools grant and we will provide training to the community to help support reduced violence and stimulate public safety teamwork.

SDFD's third CERT school initiative is in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education. CERT San Diego is exploring the development of CERT in outlying school areas for possible CERT programs in areas such as Rancho Bernardo, Poway and other outlying areas.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Approved: Rey Arellano
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GHIO/DF

ATTACHMENT

- [1. City of San Diego Emergency Notification Process](#)