

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM #14: NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (NECP) GOAL 1 EVALUATION**

#### **SUBJECT:**

The Department of Homeland Security has completed its final report based on evaluating Hampton Roads' emergency communications system during HarborFest 2010.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), in cooperation with FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate (GPD), continues to support and promote the ability of emergency responders and government officials to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters. An important component of this effort is the National Emergency Communications Plan which establishes interim benchmarks by which State, local and tribal governments, and Federal agencies expect to achieve a baseline level of national interoperable communications.

Representatives from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) were in Norfolk on June 12 & 13, 2010, during HarborFest to observe Hampton Roads' progress toward Goal 1 of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). The NECP is a strategic plan that establishes a national vision for the future state of emergency communications. Hampton Roads is one of 64 Urban Areas designated by the Department of Homeland Security for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program. As a participant in this program, DHS periodically reviews various aspects of preparedness for these designated Urban Areas. During the 2010 HarborFest, the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) observed Hampton Roads' progress toward Goal 1 of the National Emergency Communications Plan which states:

“By 2010, 90 percent of all high-risk urban areas designated within the UASI are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.”

The final report, which is classified as “For Official Use Only”, was received on August 24, 2010. In the key findings, the DHS observers agreed that the involved jurisdictions and agencies provided interoperable communications within the confines of this event and demonstrated communications planning using policies and procedures. In addition, communications systems were utilized with few difficulties and operational leadership was able to manage resources and make timely decisions without significant communications impediments. Therefore, OEC determined that the Norfolk Urban Area “*successfully demonstrated*” response-level emergency communications as outlined by NECP Goal 1 at an established level.

Mr. Richard Flannery, HRPDC Emergency Management Administrator, will brief the Commission on the NECP Goal 1 results.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Accept the briefing and provide a copy of the “For Official Use Only” After Action Report and Improvement Plan to the affected localities.

**STAFF COMMENTARY:**

The observance of Hampton Roads’ progress and successful demonstration towards Goal 1 of the National Emergency Communications Plan will assist public safety and communications officials in planning for future events (i.e. HarborFest 2011 and OPSAIL 2012).