

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #5: REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COLLABORATION AND SUSTAINMENT

SUBJECT:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released Fiscal Year 2014 Preparedness Grant Allocations. This year, Hampton Roads will receive \$1 million in Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funding. In addition, multiple federally funded regional grant programs are coming to an end. Consolidated, regionally focused emergency management planning and support will enable Hampton Roads communities to build resiliency and strengthen their ability to prepare, respond, recover, and mitigate all hazards that may threaten the area.

BACKGROUND:

Hampton Roads was designated a high risk urban area eligible to receive UASI funding in Fiscal Year 2007. In Fiscal Year 2012, the region was removed from the UASI eligibility list and remained ineligible to apply for UASI grants thru Fiscal Year 2013. However, the region has been reinstated and allocated \$1 million for fiscal year 2014. While these funds will greatly assist preparedness efforts in the Hampton Roads region, the funding is still insufficient to meet regional preparedness needs.

In addition to the UASI funds, the Hampton Roads region has benefited from grants for Homeland Security Grants and Sub-Grants, including Regional Catastrophic Planning Grants, Port Security Grants and Communications and Interoperability Program Grants. These programs have been successful in fostering communication and greater coordination among local, state and federal representatives to improve the region's capacity to plan, coordinate, equip, and ultimately respond and recover from natural and manmade threats and disasters.

Many of these grants have been reduced, eliminated or will be closed within the next twelve months. They have resulted in the acquisition of millions of dollars of assets that have depreciated service life and need to be maintained and replaced over time. In addition, multiple regional Emergency Planning Organizations, created for various programs have resulted in duplication of effort, requiring many hours of staff time and creating unintended program inefficiencies.

Consolidating and sustaining these highly effective grant program capabilities and assets will improve efficiencies and produce many tangible benefits for member jurisdictions and the region.

James Gray (Hampton Assistant City Manager and UAWG Chair) and Stephen Best (Program Manager and Former Fire Chief) will brief the Commission.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

Staff recommends supporting this effort as it is vital to our ability to maintain and enhance our region's preparedness for all hazards.

Note: This item will be presented for action under item #8-L