



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

MAYOR SEGARRA LEADS POST-WINTER ANALYSIS MEETING JOINS WITH CITY, STATE AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS IMPROVE OUTCOMES

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(March 31, 2011) – Yesterday Mayor Pedro E. Segarra joined state and regional officials at the South Church in Hartford to discuss response and coordination efforts after an historic winter season.

The Mayor was joined by more than 25 local, state and regional officials, including experts from the Capitol Region Council of Governments; Commissioner Peter Boynton, Director William Hackett and Thomas Gavaghan, the Region 3 Coordinator, from the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; David Lee from CT Transit; Mike Sanders from the Department of Transportation; Chief Daryl Roberts and Assistant Chief Carlos Huertas from the Police and Fire Departments; and city staff from the Department of Public Works, Health and Human Services and Emergency Services and Telecommunications.

“This past winter was a learning experience for all of us. The mid-January storm alone dropped more than 2 feet of snow in many places and it is very difficult to plan for an event of that significance. While I am proud of the quick response from City agencies and the cooperative efforts between City, state and regional authorities, there is much that we can – and must – improve on,” said Mayor Segarra.

The meeting, moderated by the Capital Region Council of Governments, focused on identifying what worked well, what did not and how all appropriate stakeholders can better communicate to deliver the best services for the residents of Hartford and Capitol region.

Hartford Director of Emergency Management Katherine McCormack said, “Hosting this meeting was essential to analyze what worked and what didn’t. While the coordination was not perfect, this was the most extensive effort that I’ve seen in my many years with the City of Hartford and I have no doubt that the lessons we take will only improve future outcomes.”

“While each City department has its own process and procedures when it comes to preparing for snow storms and other emergencies,” said Assistant Police Chief Brian Heavren, who also serves as the Chair of the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC), “it was helpful for the Mayor to pull together everyone and learn how what each of us does influences what happens in other departments, and throughout the region.”

According to Mayor Segarra, meeting outcomes included a clear sense of when the City of Hartford’s Emergency Operations Center will be opened and operational, how the City’s decision-making is impacted by state operations, and relationship-building between the relevant authorities to better facilitate communication in the future.

This past winter the City of Hartford had over 80 inches of snow, a majority of which fell in a 3 week period. The average snowfall amount in a typical winter in Hartford is 26.7 inches.