



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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MAYOR

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# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Joint Press Release

### City Emergency Preparedness Team & Mid-State Planning Agency Working Together to Mitigate Disaster Impacts

Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano announced a joint grant venture with the Midstate Regional Planning Agency focused on regional natural hazard pre-disaster planning. The grant, received by the Mid-State Planning Agency is designed to create collaboration between the regional planner, Middletown and its the surrounding municipalities as it relates to natural hazards and damage mitigation from major storms.

The purpose of this grant is to develop a hazard mitigation plan by evaluating the local natural hazard vulnerabilities, looking at local and regional capabilities to address the vulnerabilities and to "list" needs. The profiling of potential hazards will be based on a variety of sources and personal observations of recent events and discussions with residents and organizations that may have a historical viewpoint. A significant amount of information will also come from local historical societies. The mitigation plan will look to detail the community as a whole in topographical and physiological terms and list vulnerable populations such as fixed populations and people with disabilities.

The grant will enable the participating cities and towns along with regional planners to assess existing and proposed vulnerable buildings, infrastructure and critical public and private facilities that may be in danger at the time of a disaster. Also, the grant will allow the cities and towns to list vulnerable infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sewer, water, power lines, waterway dams, cell towers, gas or oil lines, fire or police structures, schools, command and control structures or repetitive loss properties that are built in a flood plain that have already generated repeated claims.

The hope of the planning agency is to record and develop a plan for all critical facilities that are deemed essential to the health and welfare of the whole population and where service losses or facility damage would affect the general population.

Giuliano said, "We are assessing our vulnerabilities as the result of hurricanes, snow and/or ice storms, significant rain events, or tornadoes. This is a collaborative effort that Middletown is happy to be a part of with our neighboring municipalities and the Midstate Planning Agency. I've pledged our emergency management team's support. It's good to know Middletown has anticipated many of these factors into our own plan already but it never hurts to double check it and make sure our plan integrates with the regional and other local plans. This grant allows for that integration."

Midstate plans to hold public hearings after the first of the year regarding the new plan. Midstate Planner, Joel Severance said, "We know we are over due for a Category 2 or 3 Hurricane, we aren't here to alarm folks but we want to be sure we are prepared regardless of the storm or its timing. This is all about preparation."