



## THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

*HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME*

### PRESS RELEASE

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## MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO CALLS ON FEMA TO APPROVE CITY'S REQUEST FOR REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF DEBRIS FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY

*August 11, 2011* – Mayor Domenic J. Sarno announced today that he has directed a letter (see attached) to James N. Russo, Federal Coordinating Officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Springfield tornado disaster recovery efforts requesting approval for authorization to conduct private property debris removal for property owners who grant permission.

If Mayor Sarno's request is approved, property owners in the disaster-affected areas would be required to fill out an application granting the government right-of-entry onto their property. As part of the application process, property owners would be required to provide documentation verifying insurance coverage so that there is no duplication of benefits. The City of Springfield would seek the maximum reimbursement allowed under all applicable laws and regulations for expenses incurred.

"There are still people in the community who need assistance," stated Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. "It is very important for the City and our residents that we receive approval from FEMA for private property debris removal. City residents and business owners have shown tremendous resiliency since the June 1<sup>st</sup> tornado and we need to continue with positive momentum to ensure that the rebuilding process continues to move forward."

If Mayor Sarno's request to FEMA is granted, additional information will be provided to residents and to the media for publication. Residents and business owners should be reminded that **the deadline to register with FEMA is August 15, 2011.**

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