



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO NAMES INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE ON REBUILD SPRINGFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 13, 2011 – Joined by Gerald W. Hayes and Nicholas A. Fyntrilakis, Mayor Domenic J. Sarno announced today the individuals he has chosen to serve on the Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee. Last month, Mayor Sarno had announced that Hayes and Fyntrilakis will lead a public-private partnership of the Springfield Redevelopment Authority (SRA) and DevelopSpringfield that will manage a comprehensive multi-year effort to rebuild all sections of the City affected by the June 1 tornado.

The June 1 EF-3 rated tornado (Enhanced Fujita Scale), with wind speeds of up to 160 miles per hour struck several areas over an approximate 6.2 mile stretch and one-quarter mile wide path within the City of Springfield. The tornado moved from west to east, damaging or destroying homes, businesses, parks, churches, schools, trees and infrastructure. Seven neighborhoods in the City were impacted.

The following individuals have been named to the Advisory Committee and include representatives from neighborhood councils, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, business leaders and housing representatives.

NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Leo Florian	President of the South End Citizens Council
Alicia Zoeller	Member of the Maple High/Six Corners Neighborhood Council
Ethel Griffin	President of the Old Hill Neighborhood Council
Mattie Lacewell	Secretary of the Upper Hill Residents Council
Chris Caputo	President of the East Forest Park Civic Association
David Jarnes	Vice President of the Sixteen Acres Civic Association

AL-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shalimar Colon	Principal of Brightwood Elementary School; Resident of Tornado Impacted Area
Rev. Bruce Shaw	Senior Pastor of New Hope Pentecostal Church; Church Impacted by Tornado
Attorney Laura Marino	Law Office of Laura Marino; Tornado Impacted Business Owner
Jill Russell	Executive Vice President of Springfield College; College Impacted by Tornado
Raymond Jordan	Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnership Coordinator, U.S. Department of HUD
Hector Toledo	Vice President of Hampden Bank; Business Community Representative
Carlos Gonzalez	President of the Latino Chamber of Commerce; Business Community Representative
Don Courtemanche	Executive Director, Springfield BID; Resident of Tornado Impacted Area
Peter Gagliardi	President of the HAP, Inc., and Resident of Tornado Impacted Area

“It is after careful deliberation that I have reached out to these individuals and have asked them to serve on this extremely important advisory committee,” stated Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. Individually, they demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the City of Springfield and unique perspectives. Collectively, their broad range of skills, experiences and commitment to the ongoing tornado recovery and rebuilding efforts assure me that they are ideal individuals for this advisory committee who will participate in the planning and implementation process.”

Hayes said that “this Advisory Committee truly represents a cross-section of neighborhood interests and citizens who will bring a broader community-wide perspective. We look forward to our deliberations.”

“This group will provide valuable grassroots context to the important planning work that is commencing yielding a better plan that reflects that interests of the community” said Fyntrilakis.

The Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee has been charged with providing advice to the Mayor in:

- The formulation of a Tornado Rebuilding Master Plan (TRMP);
- The formation of an implementation strategy for the TRMP;
- Generating input from Neighborhood Councils, residents, business groups and the public at large;
- Emphasizing workable approaches that will achieve rebuilding on a timely basis and capitalize on the capabilities of existing Springfield-based organizations and businesses in executing the strategy.

“As we enter the crucial rebuilding phase, we must move quickly to develop actionable and realistic strategies – a blueprint that will reflect a community-embraced vision for a stronger and even more vibrant Springfield,” added Mayor Sarno.

During the press conference, officials also released information about the process for inviting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ’s) from qualified consulting firms in connection with the preparation of the Tornado Rebuilding Master Plan. SOQ’s are being invited from firms with substantial experience in urban planning, design and revitalization, community development, real estate and project finance and strategic implementation planning. Experience in planning and redevelopment following disasters will also be an important consideration.

For Additional information about the Request for Qualifications, interested parties can contact Nicholas A. Fyntrilakis, Chairman of DevelopSpringfield at **info@developspringfield.com**. To obtain a copy of the RFQ, go to DevelopSpringfield.com.

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