

Request for Release of Funds and Certification

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development

OMB No. 2506-0087
(exp. 07/31/2017)

This form is to be used by Responsible Entities and Recipients (as defined in 24 CFR 58.2) when requesting the release of funds, and requesting the authority to use such funds, for HUD programs identified by statutes that provide for the assumption of the environmental review responsibility by units of general local government and States. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 36 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. This agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless that collection displays a valid OMB control number.

Part 1. Program Description and Request for Release of Funds (to be completed by Responsible Entity)

1. Program Title(s) CDBG-DR Funds	2. HUD/State Identification Number B-13-MS-25-0001	3. Recipient Identification Number (optional)
4. OMB Catalog Number(s) N/A	5. Name and address of responsible entity City of Springfield 36 Court Street Springfield, MA 01103	
6. For information about this request, contact (name & phone number) Sean Pham; 413-784-4883		
8. HUD or State Agency and office unit to receive request Office of Community Development US Department of Housing & Urban Development 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222-1092	7. Name and address of recipient (if different than responsible entity) Same as above	

The recipient(s) of assistance under the program(s) listed above requests the release of funds and removal of environmental grant conditions governing the use of the assistance for the following

9. Program Activity(ies)/Project Name(s) Roadways/Sidewalks	10. Location (Street address, city, county, State) Centralized location is 441 Walnut Street; see project description for further geographic information.
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11. Program Activity/Project Description

The City of Springfield is seeking to widen the roadway area of Central and Hickory Street and expand the existing Ruth Elizabeth Park. The widening of the road will result in the fee taking of four properties and several other partial takings in order to effectively gain necessary footage on the north side of Hickory Street. The three properties in question include 46-48 Hickory Street, 468 Walnut Street, 462 Central Street & WS Hancock Street. The properties will be demolished for the purpose of this project.

Initial proposal:

The current project limits are from the intersection of Pine Street to Sheffield Street and include realignments with Hickory Street, Hancock Street, Eastern Avenue and signal improvements at Walnut Street. Also being considered are changes to the current configuration of Rifle Street and the alignment with Eastern Ave.

As of June 30, 2014:

Changes to the proposed alignment have shifted the roadway to the north side of Hickory Street. This changes the land takings from the properties on the south side of Hickory to taking the properties on the north side including park land. The Traffic Study has been completed as well as the preliminary design. DPW is working with Planning & Economic Development to identify the actual land takings and also with the Law Department to work through the process dealing with the taking of Park property.

As of September 30, 2014:

The alignment has been finalized as well as the Schematic Design of the project. Plans for land acquisitions have been completed. A change order was necessary to expand this task from the ten (10) plans estimated to the twenty-three (23) required by the final alignment. The change order is in the process of signatures and is not included in the figures below until signatures are completed. Geotechnical field work has been completed. The City has begun the 4F process for reallocating Park property to roadway use. Coordination with utilities is ongoing.

Estimated Project Cost: \$5,528,300.00

Estimated HUD Funded Amount: \$5,265,000.00

Part 2. Environmental Certification (to be completed by responsible entity)

With reference to the above Program Activity(ies)/Project(s), I, the undersigned officer of the responsible entity, certify that:

1. The responsible entity has fully carried out its responsibilities for environmental review, decision-making and action pertaining to the project(s) named above.
2. The responsible entity has assumed responsibility for and complied with and will continue to comply with, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the environmental procedures, permit requirements and statutory obligations of the laws cited in 24 CFR 58.5; and also agrees to comply with the authorities in 24 CFR 58.6 and applicable State and local laws.
3. The responsible entity has assumed responsibility for and complied with and will continue to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations 36 CFR 800, including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, and the public.
4. After considering the type and degree of environmental effects identified by the environmental review completed for the proposed project described in Part 1 of this request, I have found that the proposal did did not require the preparation and dissemination of an environmental impact statement.
5. The responsible entity has disseminated and/or published in the manner prescribed by 24 CFR 58.43 and 58.55 a notice to the public in accordance with 24 CFR 58.70 and as evidenced by the attached copy (copies) or evidence of posting and mailing procedure.
6. The dates for all statutory and regulatory time periods for review, comment or other action are in compliance with procedures and requirements of 24 CFR Part 58.
7. In accordance with 24 CFR 58.71(b), the responsible entity will advise the recipient (if different from the responsible entity) of any special environmental conditions that must be adhered to in carrying out the project.

As the duly designated certifying official of the responsible entity, I also certify that:

8. I am authorized to and do consent to assume the status of Federal official under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and each provision of law designated in the 24 CFR 58.5 list of NEPA-related authorities insofar as the provisions of these laws apply to the HUD responsibilities for environmental review, decision-making and action that have been assumed by the responsible entity.
9. I am authorized to and do accept, on behalf of the recipient personally, the jurisdiction of the Federal courts for the enforcement of all these responsibilities, in my capacity as certifying officer of the responsible entity.

Signature of Certifying Officer of the Responsible Entity

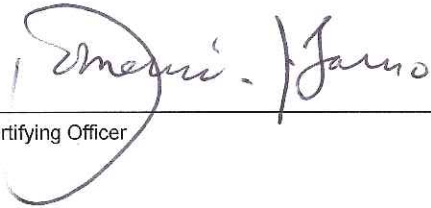
Title of Certifying Officer

Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor

Date signed

4/12/16

X



Address of Certifying Officer

36 COURT STREET SPRINGFIELD MA 01103

Part 3. To be completed when the Recipient is not the Responsible Entity

The recipient requests the release of funds for the programs and activities identified in Part 1 and agrees to abide by the special conditions, procedures and requirements of the environmental review and to advise the responsible entity of any proposed change in the scope of the project or any change in environmental conditions in accordance with 24 CFR 58.71(b).

Signature of Authorized Officer of the Recipient

Title of Authorized Officer

Date signed

X

Warning: HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802)

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

March 25, 2016
City of Springfield
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

This Notice shall satisfy two (2) separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Springfield on or about April 10, 2016. The City of Springfield will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) with Federal assistance under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) funding, for the following projects:

PROJECT: Central/Hickory Roadways

PROJECT SUMMARY: The City of Springfield is seeking to widen the roadway area of Central and Hickory Street. The widening in the road will result in the taking of three properties in order to effectively gain ten feet on the north side of Hickory Street. The three properties in question include 46-48 Hickory Street, 468 Walnut Street and 462 Central Street. The properties will be demolished for the purpose of this project.

The current project limits are from the intersection of Pine Street to Sheffield Street and include realignments with Hickory Street, Hancock Street, Eastern Avenue and signal improvements at Walnut Street. Also being considered are changes to the current configuration of Kille Street and the alignment with Eastern Ave.

As of June 30, 2014, changes to the proposed alignment have shifted the roadway to the north side of Hickory Street. This changes the land takings from the properties on the south side of Hickory to taking the properties on the north side including park land. The Traffic Study has been completed as well as the preliminary design. DPW is working with Planning & Economic Development to identify the actual land takings and also with the Law Department to work through the process dealing with the taking of Park property.

As of September 30, 2014, the alignment has been finalized as well as the Schematic Design of the project. Plans for land acquisitions have been completed. A change order was necessary to expand this task from the ten (10) plans estimated to the twenty-three (23) required by the final alignment. The change order is in the process of signatures and is not included in the figures below until signatures are completed. Geotechnical field work has been completed. The City has begun the 4F process for relocating Park property to roadway use. Coordination with utilities is ongoing.

ESTIMATED COST:
\$5,528,300.00

All projects will take place in the City of Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

There was no determination of Categorical Exclusion and therefore an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed. The law, authority or factor requiring mitigation is 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 55.0(i) which will include the removal of an identified underground storage tank at 462 Central Street as well as the subsurface reportable contaminants before the development of the roadway but after the acquisition and demolition of the property. Environmental oversight will be performed by a Licensed Site Professional at the locations of 462 Central Street and 468 Walnut Street during demolition as well as roadway construction. Disaster Recovery Staff will be responsible for implementing mitigation and monitoring progress.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Springfield has determined that the Central/Hickory Roadway Project will have no Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1966 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Office of Disaster Recovery and Compliance located at the address above and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:15AM to 4:30PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Office of Housing at 1501 East Columbus Avenue, Springfield, MA 01103. The City of Springfield will consider all comments received on or before April 10, 2016, prior to authorizing submission of requests for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Springfield certifies to HUD that Domenic J. Sarno, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the activities listed above to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Springfield's certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

- (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
- (b) the RE has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 50;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds of incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 50 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/State; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 50) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of HUD, Office of Community Planning and Development, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.
Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor
City of Springfield
(March 25)

Springfield

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Office of Housing at 1501 East Columbus Avenue, Springfield, MA 01103. The City of Springfield will consider all comments received on or before April 10, 2016, prior to authorizing submission of requests for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Springfield certifies to HUD that Domenic J. Sarno, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the activities listed above to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Springfield's certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

- (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
- (b) the RE has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 50;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds of incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 50 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/State; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 50) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of HUD, Office of Community Planning and Development, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.
Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor
City of Springfield
(March 25)

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 50) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of HUD, Office of Community Planning and Development, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor
City of Springfield
(March 25)

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Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor
City of Springfield
(March 25)

SPRINGFIELD
COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASES OF FUNDS

February 19, 2016
 City of Springfield
 36 Court Street
 Springfield, MA 01103

This Notice shall satisfy two (2) separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Springfield.

On or about March 5, 2016, the City of Springfield will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Disaster Recovery Program (CDDRP) with Federal assistance under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2) approved January 29, 2013, funding for the following projects:
PROJECT: Central/Hickory Roadways

PROJECT SUMMARY: The City of Springfield is seeking to widen the roadway area of Central and Hickory Street. The widening in the road will result in the taking of three properties in order to effectively gain ten feet on the north side of Hickory Street. The three properties in question include 46-48 Hancock Street, 468 Walnut Street and 462 Central Street. The properties will be demolished for the purpose of this project.

The current project limits are from the intersection of Pine Street to Sheffield Street and include realignments with Hickory Street, Hancock Street, Eastern Avenue and signal improvements at Walnut Street. Also being considered are changes to the current configuration of Pine Street and the alignment with Eastern Ave.

As of June 30, 2014, changes to the proposed alignment have shifted the roadway to the north side of Hickory Street. This changes the land takings from the properties on the south side of Hickory to taking the properties on the north side including park land. The Traffic Study has been completed as well as the preliminary design. DPW is working with Planning & Economic Development to identify the actual land takings and also with the law Department to work through the process dealing with the taking of Park property.

As of September 30, 2014, the alignment has been finalized, as well as the Schematic Design of the project. Plans for land acquisitions have been completed. A change order was necessary to expand this task from a ten (10) plans estimated to the twenty-three (23) required by the final alignment. The change order is in the process of signatures and is not included in the figures below until signatures are completed. Geotechnical field work has been completed. The City has begun the AF process for reacquiring Park property to roadway use. Coordination with utilities is ongoing.

ESTIMATED COST:
 \$5,283,300.00

All projects will take place in the City of Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

There was no determination of categorical exclusion and therefore an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed. The law authority or factor requiring mitigation is 24 CFR Part 58.010 & 58.51(2) which will include the removal of an identified underground storage tank at 462 Central Street as well as the subsurface investigation for portable contaminants before the development of the roadway but after the acquisition and demolition of the property. Environmental oversight will be performed by a Licensed Site Professional at the locations of 462 Central Street and 468 Walnut Street during demolition as well as roadway construction. Disaster Recovery Staff will be responsible for implementing mitigation and monitoring progress.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Springfield has determined that the

SPRINGFIELD

Central/Hickory Roadway Project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Office of Disaster Recovery and Compliance located at the address above and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:15AM to 4:30PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
 Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Office of Housing at 1600 East Columbus Avenue, Springfield, MA 01103. The City of Springfield will consider all comments received on or before March 5, 2016 prior to authorizing submission of requests for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS
 The City of Springfield certifies to HUD that Domenic J. Sarno, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the activities listed above to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Springfield's certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

- (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
 - (b) the RE has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;
 - (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/State or;
 - (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.
- Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of HUD, Office of Community Planning and Development, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.
 Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor
 City of Springfield
 (February 15)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASES OF FUNDS

December 14, 2015
City of Springfield
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
On or about December 22, 2014 the City of Springfield will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) with Federal assistance under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) funding for the following projects:

PROJECT #11
Central/Hickory Roadways
PROJECT SUMMARY: The City of Springfield is seeking to widen the roadway area of Central and Hickory Street. The widening in the road will result in the taking of three properties in order to effectively gain ten feet on the north side of Hickory Street. The three properties in question include 46-48 Hancock Street, 468 Walnut Street and 462 Central Street. The properties will be demolished for the purpose of this project.

Initial proposal:
The current project limits are from the intersection of Pine Street to Sheffield Street and include realignments with Hickory Street, Hancock Street, Eastern Avenue and signal improvements at Walnut Street. Also being considered are changes to the current configuration of Rifle Street and the alignment with Eastern Ave.

As of June 30, 2014
Changes to the proposed alignment have shifted the roadway to the north side of Hickory Street. This changes the land takings from the properties on the south side of Hickory to taking the properties on the north side including park land. The Traffic Study has been completed as well as the preliminary Design (DPW) is working with Planning & Economic Development to identify the actual land takings and also with the Law Department to work through the process dealing with the taking of Park property.

As of September 30, 2014
The alignment has been finalized as well as the Schematic Design of the project. Plans for land acquisitions have been completed. A change order was necessary to expand this task from the ten (10) plans estimated to the twenty-three (23) required by the final alignment. The change order is in the process of signatures and is not included in the figures below until signatures are completed. Geotechnical field work has been completed. The City has begun the process for reallocating Park property to roadway use. Coordination with utilities is ongoing.

ESTIMATED COST:
\$5,528,300.00

All projects will take place in the City of Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to exempt status

Springfield

because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. The law, authority or factor involved is 24 CFR Part 58.50 (a) & 58.50 (2) which will require mitigation to include the removal of an identified underground storage tank at 462 Central Street as well as the subsurface reportable contaminants before the development of the roadway but after the acquisition and demolition of the property. Environmental oversight will be performed by a Licensed Site Professional at the locations of 462 Central Street and 468 Walnut Street during demolition as well as roadway construction. Disaster Recovery Staff will be responsible for implementing mitigation and monitoring progress.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERB to the Office of Disaster Recovery and Compliance at 36 Court Street room 405, Springfield, MA 01103. The City of Springfield will consider all comments received on or before December 21, 2015 prior to authorizing submission of requests for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS:
The City of Springfield certifies to HUD that Dominic J. Sarno, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the activities listed above to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Springfield's certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

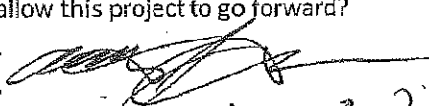
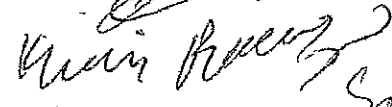

- (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
- (b) the RE has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/State; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 154 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of HUD, Office of Community Planning and Development, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston MA 02222. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.
Dominic J. Sarno, Mayor
City of Springfield
(December 14)

March 31st 2015

To Whom it may concern

We the undersigned view the Central St. Corridor and Ruth Elizabeth Park Expansion project proposed by the City of Springfield to be ill conceived and totally unnecessary. This project would remove and destroy five family owned and operated long standing neighborhood small businesses, some of which are minority owned. All for the diversion of approximately 125 yards of roadway. The affected businesses are as follows. Kevin's Towing and Auto Repair, Rachmaciej Flowers, and Hancock New and Used Tires, all located at the 462 Central St. complex, which is owned and operated by Kevin Rachmaciej and Jose Valdez. The two family residential rental property located at 46-48 Hickory St., which is owned by Wesley H. and Eulah Marie James, and Impoco's Poultry Market, located at 468 Walnut St., which is owned and operated by Anthony Impoco & family. This project would wipe out the customer services, monetary incomes, future plans and aspirations of all the business owners. All of these businesses have a direct connection to the Six Corners neighborhood, and are in their preferred and present locations by choice, some for almost 40 years. All of them were damaged and affected by the June 2011 tornado, and have since rebuilt and come back strong. Some with City supported funding. How can this City in good conscience, which claims to support diversity, small neighborhood and minority owned businesses, and economic development, allow this project to go forward?


 Wesley H. & Eulah Marie James
 Kevin P. Kelly
 Sofia Rodriguez

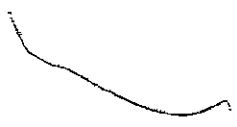
cc: Mayor Dominic Sarno
Kevin Kennedy, Chief Development Officer
Chris Cignoli, Director, Department of Public Works
Patrick Sullivan Director, Parks Buildings & Recreation Mgmt.
Steve Mollica, City Relocation Specialist
Kathleen T. Breck, Deputy City Solicitor
Tina-Marie Quagliato, Director, Disaster Recovery and Compliance
Melvin Edwards, Springfield City Councilman
Richard Neal, Congressman
Benjamin Swan, State Representative

12/15/15

Addendum to page one which was previously submitted on 3/31/15..

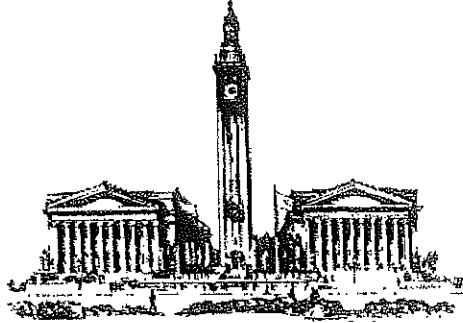
This proposed project would force the unemployment of up to 18 individuals and permanently eliminate the long standing neighborhood businesses. Several questions have to be asked. Where are the affected individuals, who are mainly low to moderate income workers, going to find jobs? Most of them, like the business owners, also have a connection to the Six Corners neighborhood. Those of us who grew up and reside in the neighborhood know and understand that unemployment is a large contributing factor to increased levels of crime, which is often accompanied by violence. When people who are already living on the ragged edge of poverty become desperate, they take desperate measures to survive. When it comes to putting food on the table, keeping a roof over one's head, and providing for family, it happens "By Any Means Necessary". Why have there been no neighborhood community meetings regarding this project? There has been no communication or contact from the City to any of us for over 9 months. This alone has caused a financial hardship to some of the affected businesses. One has been reluctant to take on any large jobs, and another has refused to purchase large quantities of necessary produce, both due to the uncertainty of their futures. Owners have put their life savings into these businesses and endured all kinds of hardships. Is the gaining of ten feet in the width of Hickory Street worth the sacrifice of these viable businesses and jobs? Monies would be better spent by repaving the entire lengths of Central and Hickory Streets and leaving the businesses intact. Where is the City support for diversity, small neighborhood minority owned businesses, and economic development, in all of this? For all of the above stated reasons and concerns, we remain united in our opposition to this project.


Kevin Roberts Saraña Roberson
Wendy & Erika Jones



*Disaster Recovery &
Compliance*

36 Court Street - Room 405
Springfield, MA 01103
Phone (413) 750-2114
Fax (413) 750-2623



THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

January 20, 2016

Kevin Rachmaciej
78 Bretton Road
Springfield, MA 01119

Re: Central Street Corridor Realignment Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate your comments submitted to my office and am writing to provide background to the Central Street Corridor Realignment Project and to respond to your concerns regarding the necessity and public input into the project.

Immediately following the June 1, 2011 tornado, the City of Springfield embarked on planning studies that were focused on allowing the impacted neighborhoods to recover, not just in the short term, but in the long term also. The "Rebuild Springfield Plan" was initiated in July of 2012 and continued its process with the generation of a final report in February 2012. The plan itself split the impacted corridor into 3 separate districts within the City where numerous individual meetings, public presentations, interactive planning meetings and public hearings were held. Based upon input of over 3,000 residents at public meetings and the public planning process, redevelopment plans were developed and presented to all of the involved entities and neighborhood groups.

At that same time, but separate from the District studies, the Springfield DPW had identified the Central Street corridor as an area of significant concern and was beginning to develop necessary documents relative to upgrading traffic flow, pavement condition, pedestrian flow, and utility upgrades. It was determined by DPW that the condition of the area required an immediate plan to outline needed improvements. Once the ReBuild Springfield study was undertaken, both study tasks were merged into one project and have moved forward together since that point in time.

The proposed project area along the Central Street corridor falls within District 2 of the ReBuild Springfield report which focuses on the Maple High – Six Corners, Old Hill, Upper Hill and Forest Park neighborhood that were impacted.

Listening Tours were scheduled on August 2, 2011, August 5, 2011, August 11, 2011 and August 16, 2011 to solicit initial ideas from residents on how the impacted neighborhoods should be rebuilt. Additionally, as part of developing the final plan, Public Hearings were held on October 12, 2011, November 15, 2011 and December 14, 2011 to solicit additional feedback from residents, not to just specifically address tornado recovery issues, but to also address other issues that plague the neighborhood. All of these comments were gathered and action plans were developed. While issues such as crime, education, poverty were discussed, there was also a significant amount of infrastructure, roadway and vehicular and pedestrian circulation

issues that were brought up by residents of the neighborhood. These became the focus of the Department of Public Works.

Within the final Rebuild Springfield Report, released publicly on April 26, 2012, the concept of an improved Central Street / Hickory St corridor was presented that also included revised traffic patterns to Rifle St. and Allen St. The proposed improvement sketch is shown on Page 55 of the District 2 Final Report and on Page 12 of the Rebuild Springfield Progress Report, released publicly June 5, 2014. Both plans can be viewed by the public at http://developspringfield.com/projects/rebuild_springfield.html.

The DPW then took these concepts and began to turn them into specific design plans to determine proper roadway layout to address all of the public concerns. As part of the traffic studies undertaken, traffic flow patterns and destination analyses were performed to determine main routes of traffic flow. Destinations such as the new Brookings School, Springfield College and Mass Mutual were determined to be the major point of origination / destination for traffic through the corridor. Based upon the traffic flow projections it was determined that the current layout of the Central St., Rifle St. Allen St., Walnut St. and Hickory St. was very inefficient and changes to the existing traffic patterns was needed. Current roadway and intersection layouts were analyzed and determined to be unacceptable, and improvements to the existing corridor were not feasible due to issues such as:

- Limited Right-of-Way
- Streams and Buffers
- Property Impacts
- Proposed traffic flow patterns
- Traffic Congestion
- Roadway Alignment
- Excessive Costs
- Cost of Utility Upgrades

As part of developing the design / layout plans of the proposed roadway, it was determined early in the process that both public and private properties would be impacted regardless of the layout option developed. In proceeding with the designs and implementing necessary design standards (lane widths, shoulder widths, corner radii, etc.), various roadway layout options were developed and analyzed based upon efficiency, vehicular and pedestrian safety, public safety, property impacts, etc. It was determined that the most acceptable and efficient layout was a layout very similar to the plan shown in the ReBuild Springfield report.

As the specific layout was developed further it was determined that the existing Hickory St. corridor adjacent to Ruth Elizabeth Park, which is currently one-way, would need to be widened to accommodate two way traffic. The remainder of the project to the east would also require a complete upgrade of the Allen St., Hickory St. & Walnut St. intersection as well as alignment and widening improvement to Hickory St. to the east of the intersection. Numerous layout options were developed and analyzed and it was determined that each layout developed would require land taking and construction easement

After numerous layout options were further developed and evaluated, the City wanted to develop a layout that would have the least amount of impact to property owners, and the least need for actual land taking and easements. Under any of the design scenarios developed, the property on the northwest corner of the Central St. / Hancock St. intersection (service station) would need to be taken in its entirety. The next area reviewed was the Hickory St. corridor between Hancock and Allen St. As the right-of-way was too narrow to accommodate the proposed two-way alignment, either the south or north side of the roadway would be impacted. If the roadway was to be widened towards the south, it was determined that a minimum of three properties (2 residential and 1 business) would have to be taken in their entirety, while if the roadway was widened to the north two properties (1 residential and 1 business) would be taken. Therefore the widening to the north would be the least impactful. But it was also determined that the Ruth Elizabeth Park would also be impacted and fall under the State / Federal 6f process. Even with this process added to the project

the City felt that minimizing the impact to the adjacent private properties was the most important aspect of the project, thus the current alignment is what has been advance to final design.

Early in 2014 the impacted property owners were contacted by the City and the roadway layout options were presented, and it was discussed how and why their property was needed by the City. At the same time the City also arranged that each owner meet with the City's relocation consultant so that they could be informed of their right under the law and what the City's financial obligations to each of them will be throughout the process. The City informed all property owners that there would be a time gap between the meeting and when the City would be moving forward with land takings, as there was significant due diligence that needed to be completed. Due diligence included multiple appraisals, environmental investigation and environmental review. It may be important to note that necessary due diligence on some of the properties has taken longer than others. At this time the City is continuing to work on the necessary due diligence for these potential takings. As I'm sure you are aware, all property owners voluntarily signed access agreements to allow the City to access their property for necessary due diligence at the time of the initial meeting. Additionally, as the City has been conducting its ongoing due diligence, there has been ongoing contact with impacted property owners and a second round of voluntary access agreements were signed in Fall 2015 by certain owners, which has allowed the necessary due diligence to continue. At the time these agreements were signed, questions and updates were provided to the impacted property owners.

The City anticipates that there will be an additional public meeting regarding the specific proposed design for the realignment. However, the date of this meeting has not been set at this time. You can be assured that once this date has been set, as an impacted property owner, you will be notified and will be welcome to attend.

As you may also recall the City informed owners at the initial meeting and in subsequent conversations with property owners and/or their attorneys, that there was staff available at the Office of Disaster Recovery & Compliance to answer questions and/or provide updates to landowners as necessary (413)750-2114. Some property owners have utilized this point of contact to receive updates and/or answer any questions that have come up during this process, and the City encourages all property owners and/or impacted tenants with questions to continue to utilize this contact as the project progresses.

As always the City appreciates feedback and comment regarding ongoing projects. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tina-Marie Quagliato, Director
Disaster Recovery & Compliance

Cc: Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
Kevin Kennedy, Chief Development Officer
Chris Cignoli, Director, Department of Public Works
Steve Mollica, City Relocation Specialist
Kathleen T. Breck, Deputy City Solicitor
Robert Schuymeko, HUD Boston Field Office

DevelopSpringfield unveils master plan for post-tornado revitalization of city



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on April 26, 2012 at 4:59 PM, updated April 26, 2012 at 6:39 PM

SPRINGFIELD -- **DevelopSpringfield**, a private nonprofit organization leading the "**Rebuild Springfield**" effort, released its full, formal master plan Thursday that discloses long-term strategies to revitalize the city following last June's **tornado**.

Representatives of DevelopSpringfield and city officials, including Mayor **Domenic J. Sarno**, praised the "Rebuild Springfield" master plan during an afternoon press conference at City Hall. The release of the approximate 900-page plan [see document at end of this article], described as the size of "two telephone books," follows months of study and extensive public input.

"I need the city to rally behind this plan," Sarno said. "This has been a grassroots effort. This plan was put together to say how can we not only rebuild the tornado-ravaged areas, but more importantly, let's build on the strengths of the city of Springfield, and let's conquer those urban challenges that urban centers face across the United States."

Gerald W. Hayes, co-chairman of the Rebuild Springfield effort, said that implementation of the plan could take three to five years, and will likely require hundreds of millions of dollars. Federal disaster aid, other state and federal sources funds, and private contributions and investment will be needed, officials said.

More than 3,000 people participated in the planning process in attending community meetings and offering comments online, officials said.

An executive summary of the plan was released in late February.

DevelopSpringfield, working with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, city officials and stakeholders and the community, will immediately move to the implementation stage, said Nicholas Fytrilakis, chairman of the Board of Directors of DevelopSpringfield.

The organization and city will also pursue the maximum possible disaster aid reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Kevin Kennedy, the city's chief development officer.

A key objective of the master plan is to make sure that residents and stakeholders are able to "track its progress, measure successes, identify areas for improvement, demand accountability, and find inroads to participate in its execution," the plan states.

The plan also identified myriad state and federal funding sources that could assist the Rebuild Springfield effort, including FEMA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

The plan, among its specific recommendations, said there is an "urgent need and great potential to transform Central Street" in the Six Corners area, which was heavily damaged by the tornado. There is a need for new infill housing development in coordination with other public improvements, particularly targeting vacant lots and abandoned properties, the report states.

In the South End area, the report recommends connecting Main Street with the riverfront by making Union Street a "festival street" and programming art in the underpass. The plan also urges the city to assist the South End Community Center and Square One, both displaced by the tornado, to relocate within the neighborhood.

In the East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres area, the plan recommends a major tree replanting effort in the large wooded areas and along streets. In addition, it recommends creating enhanced access to water bodies including Watershops Pond, Bass Pond and Mill Pond.

Kevin Sweeney, executive director of DevelopSpringfield, said a group of community leaders, who appointed as "district leaders" and "domain leaders" in March, will take a lead role in implementing the master plan. While the district leaders focus on neighborhoods that were damaged, the domain leaders will address six citywide areas of concern: education; physical; cultural; social; economic; and organization.

[Rebuild Springfield Plan](#)

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DevelopSpringfield seeks public input before finalizing master plan for post-tornado revitalization



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com
Follow on Twitter
on January 04, 2012 at 5:47 PM

SPRINGFIELD -- Proposed recommendations to redevelop Springfield in the aftermath of the June 1 tornado will be shared with the public Thursday night, aimed at spurring additional input from residents and business people citywide before a master plan is completed in three weeks.

Thursday's meeting is from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the St. Anthony's Social Center, 375 Island Pond Road.

It marks the final citywide hearing before the "Rebuild Springfield" planning committee releases its master plan for Springfield on Jan. 26. It follows more than three months of district meetings and a prior citywide meeting, all aimed assisting with the creation of a comprehensive rebuilding plan for Springfield.

"Community input and participation is really critical at this point," said Nicholas A. Fyntrilakis, chairman of DevelopSpringfield, which is leading the Rebuild Springfield effort with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority.

Almost all of the recommendations gathered thus far were initially stated or proposed by residents during the planning process, officials said.

"It is a community driven planning process," Fyntrilakis said. "Ideas and input that we have received from the community is what is being presented as refined recommendations."

The recommendations range from engaging the public in education reform efforts to improving public transportation, to celebrating the cultural diversity of Springfield.

The goal is to find out what may be missing from the recommendations, or needs to be amended or eliminated, Fyntrilakis said.

The tornado on June 1 caused serious damage in Springfield including the downtown and South End (designated as District 1), Six Corners, Upper Hill, Old Hill and Forest Park (District 2), and East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres (District 3). The tornado damaged 577 structures, and has opened the door to federal disaster aid and loans.

The planning committee, aided by consultants and public input, has amassed many recommendations for physical improvements that are neighborhood-specific. Thursday's meeting will primarily deal with citywide recommendations also being gathered.

Suggestions will be refined and prioritized over the next two weeks with the detailed input from both the citywide meeting and Rebuild Springfield website at <http://www.rebuildspringfield.com>.

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City residents begin offering ideas for how to rebuild Springfield following tornado



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on October 12, 2011 at 9:02 PM, updated October 13, 2011 at 8:56 AM

SPRINGFIELD – Local officials and consultants that are leading the tornado recovery effort in Springfield said Wednesday that public engagement and ideas are critical to the city's success, as shown in other disaster areas ranging from New Orleans to Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Bobbie Hill, a principal in Concordia LLC of New Orleans, the lead consultant for the Rebuild Springfield effort, said a fully engaged public, including residents and business owners, can be the difference between success and failure in restoring neighborhoods extensively damaged in the June 1 tornadoes that swept through the region.

More than 100 people turned out to the J.C. Williams Center Wednesday night for a neighborhood discussion on ways to rebuild the Six Corners, Old Hill neighborhoods.

People sat in small groups and discussed what they would like to see happen with the rebuilding, what the unique qualities of their neighborhood are, and what they would like to improve. Each group's ideas were then presented to the larger group.

Ron Mallis, an architect who is working on rebuilding the South End, said the ideas put forward at his table were extraordinary.

"Many of these people have been living here a long time. This is a huge asset," he said. "(The city) should listen to them. You build on this," he said, gesturing to the list of ideas on the large sheet of paper.

Michelle Bennefeld, 43, who has live in Six Corners all her life, said she has been going to every meeting the city has had on improving the neighborhood, even ones before the tornadoes. Though doubtful there will be positive change, she said she keeps coming to the meetings anyway.

"I have to show up because I believe if you keep showing up and they eventually listen to you, there will be change," she said.

She wanted to see houses rebuilt and better, safer parks for children as a way of strengthening the neighborhood.

Carol Nelson, also of Six Corners, said the rebuild needs to emphasize more businesses and more owner-occupied housing in the neighborhood. She said she was highly doubtful of the outcome, however.

"I don't believe there will be anything coming of it. In this neighborhood, nothing ever gets done," she said. Nonetheless, she said, "It's my neighborhood. You have to keep showing up."

Concordia and partner consultants will develop a draft master plan for rebuilding Springfield, incorporating ideas from the community through public forums, on-line suggestions, one-on-one interviews with stakeholders and other avenues, as was done in other disaster areas, Hill said. Her firm has been involved in disaster recovery efforts in and outside the United States, including New Orleans, Haiti and Japan.

The master plan is slated for completion by the end of the year, and will be presented to the city the first week of January.

UPCOMING REBUILD SPRINGFIELD MEETINGS

Dates, times and locations for upcoming public forums for Rebuild Springfield.

- Metro Center/South End:
Thursday, Oct. 13, 6:30-9:30
p.m., Gentile Apartments
Community Room, 85 Williams
St.

At the Wednesday night meeting, residents discussed rebuilding houses and schools, but also improving parks, bringing in businesses and jobs, and finding ways to bring more stable families back into the neighborhood.

Nicholas A. Fytrilakis, chairman of DevelopSpringfield, the private non-profit agency that hired Concordia, said that although June 1 was a tragic day, "we also really need to view it as an opportunity to move forward" and make Springfield even better and stronger by maximizing its opportunities.

DevelopSpringfield and the Springfield Redevelopment Authority are overseeing the tornado recovery effort, as requested by Mayor Domenic J. Sarno.

Hill and representatives of Berkebile Nelson Immenschuh McDowell (BNIM), a consulting firm from Kansas City, Mo., said ideas from the public were instrumental in helping New Orleans recover from the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005, and are likewise critical in the effort of Tuscaloosa in rebuilding after tornadoes swept across the Southern United States in April.

BNIM will focus in part on progressive green planning strategies, responsible architecture, and design excellence.

Some of the ideas that emerged in New Orleans, for example, were not only "brick and mortar" projects such as the rebuilding of improved public housing and a local hospital in chosen areas, but also program and policy changes, consultants said. Examples include the formation of a "neighborhood protection network," and amendments to the charter so that the master plan would have the "force of law." Hill said.

The public can offer their ideas and comments through the official Rebuild Springfield Web site: RebuildSpringfield.com.

There was a "very robust community dialogue" and a similar on-line effort in Tuscaloosa, and very good ideas that became part of the master plan, said Robert Berkebile, a principal with BNIM.

It affects public and private properties and public and private investments, officials said.

Such a master plan effort and community involvement has a tendency of giving rise to new leaders in the community, and eliminating bad leadership, Berkebile said.

A community forum, conducted Tuesday at the Holy Cross Gymnasium on Plumtree Road drew approximately 100 participants and many good ideas, Hill said. The forum targeted residents in the East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres areas.

While people asked about issues directly affecting them, such as concerns about the availability of contractors, they also discussed needs in the neighborhood such as ideas for rebuilding community schools, Hill said. Many seemed surprised and pleased that the meeting were broken into round table discussions and their ideas were triggering feedback, she said.

Seven neighborhoods received significant damage from the tornadoes, which also struck communities between Westfield and Chariton. Those seven neighborhoods have been divided into three planning districts, all distinct areas ranging from the residential Sixteen Acres-East Forest Park area, to the denser, poorer area of Six Corners-Upper Hill-Old Hill-Forest Park, to the largely commercial area of the downtown-South End.

Republican reporter Patrick Johnson contributed to this report.

• Citywide meeting: Saturday,
Oct. 15, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.,
MassMutual Center

Additional meetings can be
found through
RebuildSpringfield.com

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Rebuilding tornado-damaged Springfield will take a community, according to officials



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on October 10, 2011 at 8:15 AM, updated October 10, 2011 at 4:58 PM

SPRINGFIELD -- It takes a community to rebuild a city after a natural disaster.

That is the theme as organizers are urging the public to participate in a series of public hearings, beginning this week, designed to gather community ideas and strategies for rebuilding Springfield in the aftermath of the June 1 tornado that struck the city and some surrounding communities.

"The purpose of these meetings is to generate as much community input and engagement as possible," said Gerald Hayes, co-chairman of the **Rebuild Springfield** effort. "What we found in evaluating the experiences of other communities that have gone through natural disasters and then recover - the best master plans are those that are built from the ground up."

DevelopSpringfield Inc., and the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, the private-public partnership that is leading the Rebuild Springfield effort, are sponsoring the hearings.

Four hearings are scheduled this week including three neighborhood hearings and a citywide hearing on Saturday.

DevelopSpringfield hired Concordia LLC last month to develop a master plan for the tornado recovery efforts in Springfield. The firm played a key role in rebuilding New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and also has experience in disaster-relief efforts in Haiti and Japan.

The master plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year after three rounds of hearings in October, November and December, Hayes said.

The October hearings are for the initial community input, Hayes said. At November hearings, the consultant will be sharing ideas and soliciting feedback.

In December, the consultant will discuss a draft master plan with the community and get further public input before the plan is finalized, Hayes said.

The organizers want "to solicit as much input as possible from neighborhood residents, businesses and other stakeholders," Hayes said. They are looking for the community's thoughts "on a vision for the recovery and challenges to overcome, and understanding what the (community's) aspirations are for the future of the neighborhoods," he said.

The effort goes beyond restoring what was there before the tornado, and improving the quality of the neighborhoods that were damaged, Hayes said.

There was extensive public and private damage resulting from the tornadoes, with millions of dollars in federal aid expected to assist private insurance policies.

The city's cost for rebuilding from the June 1 tornado is expected to reach \$106 million, aided by federal and state assistance, according to estimates. The largest cost, estimated at \$64.9 million, will be for rebuilding the Dryden, Brookings and Zanetti elementary schools and the South End Community Center, according to one estimate.

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Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee schedules 2nd of 4 'listening tours' for tornado rebuilding ideas



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on August 05, 2011 at 5:29 AM, updated August 05, 2011 at 9:15 AM

SPRINGFIELD – The Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee has three more “listening tours” in August to hear from homeowners, residents and business owners about how they envision their neighborhoods to be rebuilt in the aftermath of the **June 1 tornado**.

The second of four community meetings is scheduled Friday from 6 to 8 p.m., at the J.C. Williams Community Center, 116 Florence St.

Additional tours are scheduled Aug. 11 at the Greenleaf Community Center, 1188½ Parker St., and Aug. 16 at Holy Cross Church, 221 Plumtree Road, both from 6 to 8 p.m.

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Springfield Tornado Recovery Information

PRESS RELEASE: HUD Awards City of Springfield \$17 Million for Resilience Projects

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Awards Springfield \$17 Million for Disaster Recovery & Resiliency

Springfield City Library Unveils New Logo

Springfield Public Schools Announce Increase in Graduation Rate, Decrease in Drop Out Rate

Mayor Sarno Welcomes Visitors to Bright Nights

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Elected Officials, Business and Community Leaders Attend MGM Springfield Site Tour

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Atty. John Liebel's Retirement Coffee Hour

Zanetti School Demolition

Irish Crooners Visit Mayor Sarno

MassDOT Public Hearing for Roosevelt Avenue and Island Pond Road Intersection Improvements Project

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Inaugural Events to Conclude with Inaugural Gala

Congressman Richard E. Neal, Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Break Ground for 1916 Garden of Remembrance in Forest Park

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inauguration (Photos)

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Address

Springfield Fire Department Commencement of Recruit Class 2015

Citywide Kwanzaa Celebration 2015

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Events Announced

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Issues Statement on the Passing of Mike Ballse

Young Men Matter Too of Springfield Renaissance School Visit Mayor Sarno's Office

Mayor Sarno Kicks Off the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive

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Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee Schedules Listening Tours

MEDIA ADVISORY

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REBUILD SPRINGFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHEDULES LISTENING TOURS

July 27, 2011 – in collaboration with the DevelopSpringfield and Springfield Redevelopment Authority's Public/Private Partnership, the Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee will be holding a Listening Tour during the month of August to hear from homeowners, residents and businesses about how they envision their neighborhoods to be rebuilt. This is a unique opportunity to improve upon the past and preserve the vital components of each neighborhood.

The tour is part of the overall Master Plan process and the Advisory Committee wants to ensure input has been solicited from each neighborhood in order to share it with the consulting firm that is ultimately chosen to prepare a master plan. Each neighborhood affected by the tornado is unique and has individual characteristics that should be preserved.

The Advisory Committee realizes that an effective Master Plan must reflect the voices of the people and businesses that reside in each neighborhood. These meetings are an opportunity to ensure that everyone is part of the rebuilding process.

The tours are scheduled as follows:

August 2nd	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Milton Bradley School	22 Mulberry Street
August 5th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	JC Williams Comm. Center	116 Florence Street
August 11th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Greenleaf Comm. Center	1168 1/2 Parker Street
August 16th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Holy Cross Church	221 Plumtree Road

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Page last updated: Monday, June 03, 2013 03:22 pm

Rebuild Springfield advisory committee sees progress, challenges in tornado recovery



By Peter Coonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on July 24, 2011 at 2:00 PM, updated July 25, 2011 at 4:56 AM

SPRINGFIELD – The leaders of [Rebuild Springfield](#) and a 15-member citizen advisory group say they already see the early signs of recovery from the [June 1 tornado](#) that left a path of destruction in the region.

But, as the city approaches the two-month anniversary of the tornado, the rubble, leveled trees and boarded buildings seen during a bus tour last week reveal that it will likely take three to five years for a full recovery, officials said.

The advisory committee was transported by bus, on loan from Peter Pan Bus Lines, to damaged areas, as it prepares to assist with creation of a master plan for the rebuilding.

The tour “certainly reinforced the general concept that the master plan has to be built neighborhood by neighborhood,” said Gerald W. Hayes, co-chairman of Rebuild Springfield.

“Every neighborhood is different,” Hayes said. “Each has different characteristics, different challenges, different levels of complications in achieving the rebuilding process. That came through loud and clear.”

Among the positive signs seen was a new colonial home rising along Island Pond Road in the middle of a damaged neighborhood, Hayes said.

In contrast, across town, pieces of the city’s history in the South End were gone or reduced to rubble, he said.

“It’s really kind of heartbreaking,” Hayes said. “Historic rehabilitation the last 25 years, a lot of landmarks are just missing.”

Near Springfield College and the Hickory Street area, with multi-family housing, “land use issues in that area are going to be more complicated to sort out,” Hayes said.

The advisory committee will conduct a series of “listening meetings” in the neighborhoods, Hayes said.

“It’s giving residents an opportunity to express their views, vision, aspirations, and frustrations,” Hayes said.

While in some cases, the outcome is simply replacing the old house with a new house, the master plan will also consider urban renewal opportunities, officials said.

Rebuild Springfield is a public-private partnership led by a public entity, the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, and a private entity, DevelopSpringfield.

Nicholas A. Fyntrilakis, also co-chairman of Rebuild Springfield, had a mixed reaction to what he saw on the tour.

“There is no question, we have a lot of work to do,” Fyntrilakis said. “The good news is that we saw a lot of work being done in some of the neighborhoods. We saw some properties where there was not a lot of activity. We all saw there are opportunities and there are challenges.”

Peter Gagliardi, a member of the advisory committee whose own home was damaged in the South End, said it was "remarkable how many homes are still boarded up, still waiting for work to be done."

In addition, there were large areas now cleared "that one could envision redeveloping in whole new ways," Gagliardi said. He said he is particularly concerned about the damage done to the city's woodland.

A spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Administration said that federal disaster aid is available to cover 75 percent of the damage to public properties not covered by insurance. That can include damage to roads and other infrastructure, public buildings such as schools, and emergency measures, a spokesman said.

The Elias A. Brookings School and Mary A. Dryden School received significant damage.

Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are also available.

Property owners are encouraged to apply for federal aid from **FEMA**. The deadline for registration is Aug. 15, and can be done by calling the toll-free number at 1-800-621-FEMA.

Surrounding communities that were in the path of tornadoes June 1, continue to respond to the damage left.

In **West Springfield**, Mayor Edward J. Gibson said Thursday that officials are urging people who took out forms from FEMA and the Small Business Administration from the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Town Hall to return them soon.

"That is the big drive right now," he said.

Only about 10 percent of the people who took out paperwork with the Small Business Administration have returned it, according to the mayor. The deadline for returning FEMA forms is Aug. 15. It is not necessary to wait until getting information from one's insurance company before filing for relief from the federal government, the mayor said.

Next week, state building inspectors will be in the city to go door to door to help the city determine the extent of repairs needed because of the tornado.

Wilbraham Department of Works Director Edmond Miga said the cleanup has cost \$3.5 million so far, with Ashbritt Environmental of Florida, removing downed trees and stumps from town tree belts.

Wilbraham Building Inspector Lance Trevallion said the property losses in Wilbraham ranged from minor damage to total loss.

Trevallion said 234 homes with damage were inspected in Wilbraham. Of those, 13 were classified as unsafe for occupancy.

In **Manson**, 8 percent of the structures in town were damaged by the June 1 tornado. Selectman Edward A. Maia said he thinks a lot of progress has been made, but there is still a lot to be done.

"Unfortunately I think that everyone wants it all done and it's going to be a very long, slow process," Maia said. "I think people are beginning to realize that and getting frustrated."

Maia said the selectmen were asked what they want the downtown to look like, and he responded, "I want it to look like it did on May 31."

Brimfield town officials said they have spent \$420,000 on a contract to remove downed trees and other debris from roadways and another \$130,000 for overtime worked in the first days after the tornado.

Brimfield selectmen said they are hopeful that federal money through FEMA will cover 75 percent of the town expenses. They said property owners lost roughly \$7 million worth of the value in their homes and are dealing with their insurance companies on those losses.

Westfield was spared major damage from the tornado, with cleanup mostly completed within about three weeks of the storm.

City officials say some cleanup and repairs, mostly by residents to personal property and homes, remains.

That includes repairs to the roof at Munger Hill Elementary School where the city has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as the state's School Building Authority to help finance roof replacement.

In all 250 residential homes suffered some damage, ranging from broken windows to roofs. Only three were listed by city officials as extensively damaged.

Staff reporters Lori Stabile, Suzanne McLaughlin, Sandra Constantine, Ted LaBorde and John Appleton contributed to this report.

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Springfield, Massachusetts

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Springfield City Hall

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103 [\(map\)](#)
Public hours vary by dept.

311 Call Center
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TTY: relay to 413.736.3111
Mon-Fri 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Clerk, Collector, Treasurer
M, Tu, W, F: 8:30 am - 4 pm
Thursday: 8:30 am - 6 pm

Home / News / DevelopSpringfield Announces District and Domain Leaders for Rebuild Springfield Master Plan

DevelopSpringfield Announces District and Domain Leaders for Rebuild Springfield Master Plan

DevelopSpringfield, a non-profit corporation dedicated to advancing development and expediting revitalization within the City of Springfield, announced the "District" and the "Domain" Leaders for the Rebuild Springfield Master Plan.

The Rebuild Springfield Master Plan is the community's vision for the future of its neighborhoods impacted by the June 1, 2011 tornado and for Springfield as a whole.

The Master Plan divides the tornado-impacted area into three planning districts: District One comprises downtown and the South End neighborhood; District Two, composed of the Maple-High Six Corners, Old Hill, Upper Hill and Forest Park neighborhoods; and District Three, including East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres.

In addition to District-specific matters, the Master Plan's implementation will also cover six primary nexus "Domains" that address not only the revitalization needs of the tornado-impacted areas but also the broader vision for future revitalization of the City as a whole.

The following individuals have agreed to serve as "District Leaders":

- District One: Peter Gagliardi (HAP Housing) and Samalid Hogan (City of Springfield)
- District Two: Cee Jackson (Jackson Security/DevelopSpringfield Board of Directors) and Gerry McCafferty (City of Springfield)
- District Three: William Foley (Retired Springfield City Councilor) and David Cruise (Regional Employment Board)

The Master Plan "Domain Leaders" will be:

- Education Domain: John Davis (Davis Foundation) and Pat Spradley (Springfield Public Schools)
- Physical Domain: Tim Brennan (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission) and Brian Connors (City of Springfield)
- Cultural Domain: Roni Anzures (Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts) and José Claudio (New North Citizens Council)
- Social Domain: Deputy Chief John Barbieri (Springfield Police Department) and Frank Robinson (Partners for a Healthier Community/ Baystate Health)
- Economic Domain and Organizational Domain: Armando Feliciano (Springfield Redevelopment Authority) and Kevin Sweeney (DevelopSpringfield)

According to Nick Fytrilakis, chairman of the Board of Directors of DevelopSpringfield, "A plan is only as good as its implementation. DevelopSpringfield will quarterback the Master Plan as well as the Economic and Organizational 'Domains.' The three Districts and six Domains will convene the stakeholders for their areas of focus and will drive the recommendations and further outcomes."

At the District level, those recommendations include land use options for rebuilding structures and areas impacted by the tornado including the South End Community Center, various housing sites and Camp Wilder.

http://www.springfield-ma.gov/cos/index.php?id=1175

1/26/2016

Additional issues include reforestation and management of vacant lots.

At the Domain level, Master Plan recommendations include strategies to harness Springfield's role as the economic heart of the Pioneer Valley, to streamline investment and encourage economic development and entrepreneurship, to develop a process for transforming vacant structures into community assets, to create a system of connected and integrated partnerships for a continuum of education, and to expand workforce development and educational partnerships for the benefit of all Springfield residents.

"There has been an extraordinary level of public engagement in the Rebuild Springfield dialogue, with over 3,000 individuals participating in the planning process by offering input at public meetings and online," commented Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. "I am pleased that, as a result of this tremendous commitment by the people of the City, we will have a thoughtful plan not only to rebuild from the tornado but also a plan to build a bigger, better, and stronger City."

Mayor Sarno stated, "I am confident that these strong District and Domain Leaders will achieve tangible results for the benefit of all of the citizens of the City."

Springfield News:

- [PRESS RELEASE: HUD Awards City of Springfield \\$17 Million for Resilience Projects](#)
- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Awards Springfield \\$17 Million for Disaster Recovery & Resiliency](#)
- [Springfield City Library Unveils New Logo](#)
- [Springfield Public Schools Announce Increase in Graduation Rate, Decrease in Drop Out Rate](#)
- [Mayor Sarno Welcomes Visitors to Bright Nights](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Elected Officials, Business and Community Leaders Attend MGM Springfield Site Tour](#)
- [Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)
- [Atty. John Liebel's Retirement Coffee Hour](#)
- [Zanetti School Demolition](#)
- [Irish Crooners Visit Mayor Sarno](#)
- [MassDOT Public Hearing for Roosevelt Avenue and Island Pond Road Intersection Improvements Project](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Inaugural Events to Conclude with Inaugural Gala](#)
- [Congressman Richard E. Neal, Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Break Ground for 1916 Garden of Remembrance in Forest Park](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inauguration \(Photos\)](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Address](#)
- [Springfield Fire Department Commencement of Recruit Class 2015](#)
- [Citywide Kwanzaa Celebration 2015](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Events Announced](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Issues Statement on the Passing of Mike Balfie](#)
- [Young Men Matter Too of Springfield Renaissance School Visit Mayor Sarno's Office](#)
- [Mayor Sarno Kicks Off the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive](#)
- [South Branch Park Named in Honor of Fallen Springfield Marine Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan](#)
- [Governor Charlie Baker Visits Duggan Academy](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and MassDOT Officials Tour Union Station](#)
- [Keeping Kids Safe: Lecture Series Focused on Internet Safety](#)
- [Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and NFL Hall of Famer Andre Tippett Visits Central High School to Discuss Violence Prevention with Students](#)
- [Jim McCoubrey's Retirement Coffee Hour at City Hall](#)
- [Cradles to Crayons Expands Partnership to Springfield Public Schools, Donates 1,000 Winter Coats for Children in Need](#)
- [Mayor Sarno, Congressman Neal, Commissioner Barberi, City Councilor Tom Ashe and Fenton Family Announce Naming of Paul J. Fenton Public Safety Annex](#)
- [Arthur MacArthur United States Army Reserve Center to Transfer Deed to City of Springfield for Paul J. Fenton Public Safety Annex](#)



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

MEDIA RELEASE

CONTACT:

Tom Walsh
Communications Director
Office of Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
TWalsh@springfieldcityhall.com
Tel: (413) 787-6109

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

July 13, 2011 – Joined by Gerald W. Hayes and Nicholas A. Fyntilakis, 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 Fyntilakis 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 Laceywell	Secretary of the Upper Hill Residents Council
Chris Caputo	President of the East Forest Park Civic Association
David James	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.

###

*Disaster Recovery &
Compliance*
36 Court Street - Room 405
Springfield, MA 01103
Phone (413) 750-2114
Fax (413) 750-2623



THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

January 20, 2016

Anthony Impoco
41 Sheep Pasture Road
Southwick, MA 01077

Re: Central Street Corridor Realignment Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate your comments submitted to my office and am writing to provide background to the Central Street Corridor Realignment Project and to respond to your concerns regarding the necessity and public input into the project.

Immediately following the June 1, 2011 tornado, the City of Springfield embarked on planning studies that were focused on allowing the impacted neighborhoods to recover, not just in the short term, but in the long term also. The "Rebuild Springfield Plan" was initiated in July of 2012 and continued its process with the generation of a final report in February 2012. The plan itself split the impacted corridor into 3 separate districts within the City where numerous individual meetings, public presentations, interactive planning meetings and public hearings were held. Based upon input of over 3,000 residents at public meetings and the public planning process, redevelopment plans were developed and presented to all of the involved entities and neighborhood groups.

At that same time, but separate from the District studies, the Springfield DPW had identified the Central Street corridor as an area of significant concern and was beginning to develop necessary documents relative to upgrading traffic flow, pavement condition, pedestrian flow, and utility upgrades. It was determined by DPW that the condition of the area required an immediate plan to outline needed improvements. Once the ReBuild Springfield study was undertaken, both study tasks were merged into one project and have moved forward together since that point in time.

The proposed project area along the Central Street corridor falls within District 2 of the ReBuild Springfield report which focuses on the Maple High – Six Corners, Old Hill, Upper Hill and Forest Park neighborhood that were impacted.

Listening Tours were scheduled on August 2, 2011, August 5, 2011, August 11, 2011 and August 16, 2011 to solicit initial ideas from residents on how the impacted neighborhoods should be rebuilt. Additionally, as part of developing the final plan, Public Hearings were held on October 12, 2011, November 15, 2011 and December 14, 2011 to solicit additional feedback from residents, not to just specifically address tornado recovery issues, but to also address other issues that plague the neighborhood. All of these comments were gathered and action plans were developed. While issues such as crime, education, poverty were discussed, there was also a significant amount of infrastructure, roadway and vehicular and pedestrian circulation

issues that were brought up by residents of the neighborhood. These became the focus of the Department of Public Works.

Within the final Rebuild Springfield Report, released publicly on April 26, 2012, the concept of an improved Central Street / Hickory St corridor was presented that also included revised traffic patterns to Rifle St. and Allen St. The proposed improvement sketch is shown on Page 55 of the District 2 Final Report and on Page 12 of the Rebuild Springfield Progress Report, released publicly June 5, 2014. Both plans can be viewed by the public at http://developspringfield.com/projects/rebuild_springfield.html.

The DPW then took these concepts and began to turn them into specific design plans to determine proper roadway layout to address all of the public concerns. As part of the traffic studies undertaken, traffic flow patterns and destination analyses were performed to determine main routes of traffic flow. Destinations such as the new Brookings School, Springfield College and Mass Mutual were determined to be the major point of origination / destination for traffic through the corridor. Based upon the traffic flow projections it was determined that the current layout of the Central St., Rifle St. Allen St., Walnut St. and Hickory St. was very inefficient and changes to the existing traffic patterns was needed. Current roadway and intersection layouts were analyzed and determined to be unacceptable, and improvements to the existing corridor were not feasible due to issues such as:

- Limited Right-of-Way
- Streams and Buffers
- Property Impacts
- Proposed traffic flow patterns
- Traffic Congestion
- Roadway Alignment
- Excessive Costs
- Cost of Utility Upgrades

As part of developing the design / layout plans of the proposed roadway, it was determined early in the process that both public and private properties would be impacted regardless of the layout option developed. In proceeding with the designs and implementing necessary design standards (lane widths, shoulder widths, corner radii, etc.), various roadway layout options were developed and analyzed based upon efficiency, vehicular and pedestrian safety, public safety, property impacts, etc. It was determined that the most acceptable and efficient layout was a layout very similar to the plan shown in the ReBuild Springfield report.

As the specific layout was developed further it was determined that the existing Hickory St. corridor adjacent to Ruth Elizabeth Park, which is currently one-way, would need to be widened to accommodate two way traffic. The remainder of the project to the east would also require a complete upgrade of the Allen St., Hickory St. & Walnut St. intersection as well as alignment and widening improvement to Hickory St. to the east of the intersection. Numerous layout options were developed and analyzed and it was determined that each layout developed would require land taking and construction easement

After numerous layout options were further developed and evaluated, the City wanted to develop a layout that would have the least amount of impact to property owners, and the least need for actual land taking and easements. Under any of the design scenarios developed, the property on the northwest corner of the Central St. / Hancock St. intersection (service station) would need to be taken in its entirety. The next area reviewed was the Hickory St. corridor between Hancock and Allen St. As the right-of-way was too narrow to accommodate the proposed two-way alignment, either the south or north side of the roadway would be impacted. If the roadway was to be widened towards the south, it was determined that a minimum of three properties (2 residential and 1 business) would have to be taken in their entirety, while if the roadway was widened to the north two properties (1 residential and 1 business) would be taken. Therefore the widening to the north would be the least impactful. But it was also determined that the Ruth Elizabeth Park would also be impacted and fall under the State / Federal 6f process. Even with this process added to the project

the City felt that minimizing the impact to the adjacent private properties was the most important aspect of the project, thus the current alignment is what has been advanced to final design.

Early in 2014 the impacted property owners were contacted by the City and the roadway layout options were presented, and it was discussed how and why their property was needed by the City. At the same time the City also arranged that each owner meet with the City's relocation consultant so that they could be informed of their right under the law and what the City's financial obligations to each of them will be throughout the process. The City informed all property owners that there would be a time gap between the meeting and when the City would be moving forward with land takings, as there was significant due diligence that needed to be completed. Due diligence included multiple appraisals, environmental investigation and environmental review. It may be important to note that necessary due diligence on some of the properties has taken longer than others. At this time the City is continuing to work on the necessary due diligence for these potential takings. As I'm sure you are aware, all property owners voluntarily signed access agreements to allow the City to access their property for necessary due diligence at the time of the initial meeting. Additionally, as the City has been conducting its ongoing due diligence, there has been ongoing contact with impacted property owners and a second round of voluntary access agreements were signed in Fall 2015 by certain owners, which has allowed the necessary due diligence to continue. At the time these agreements were signed, questions and updates were provided to the impacted property owners.

The City anticipates that there will be an additional public meeting regarding the specific proposed design for the realignment. However, the date of this meeting has not been set at this time. You can be assured that once this date has been set, as an impacted commercial occupant, you will be notified and will be welcome to attend.

As you may also recall the City informed owners at the initial meeting and in subsequent conversations with property owners and/or their attorneys, that there was staff available at the Office of Disaster Recovery & Compliance to answer questions and/or provide updates to landowners as necessary (413)750-2114. Some property owners have utilized this point of contact to receive updates and/or answer any questions that have come up during this process, and the City encourages all property owners and/or impacted tenants with questions to continue to utilize this contact as the project progresses.

As always the City appreciates feedback and comment regarding ongoing projects. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tina Marie Quagliato, Director
Disaster Recovery & Compliance

Cc: Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
Kevin Kennedy, Chief Development Officer
Chris Cignoli, Director, Department of Public Works
Steve Mollica, City Relocation Specialist
Kathleen T. Breck, Deputy City Solicitor
Robert Schuymeko, HUD Boston Field Office

DevelopSpringfield unveils master plan for post-tornado revitalization of city



By Peter Geonan | pgeonan@repub.com

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on April 26, 2012 at 4:59 PM, updated April 26, 2012 at 6:39 PM

SPRINGFIELD -- [DevelopSpringfield](#), a private nonprofit organization leading the "[Rebuild Springfield](#)" effort, released its full, formal master plan Thursday that discloses long-term strategies to revitalize the city following last [June's tornado](#).

Representatives of DevelopSpringfield and city officials, including Mayor [Domenic J. Sarno](#), praised the "Rebuild Springfield" master plan during an afternoon press conference at City Hall. The release of the approximate 900-page plan [see document at end of this article], described as the size of "two telephone books," follows months of study and extensive public input.

"I need the city to rally behind this plan," Sarno said. "This has been a grassroots effort. This plan was put together to say how can we not only rebuild the tornado-ravaged areas, but more importantly, let's build on the strengths of the city of Springfield, and let's conquer those urban challenges that urban centers face across the United States."

Gerald W. Hayes, co-chairman of the Rebuild Springfield effort, said that implementation of the plan could take three to five years, and will likely require hundreds of millions of dollars. Federal disaster aid, other state and federal sources funds, and private contributions and investment will be needed, officials said.

More than 3,000 people participated in the planning process in attending community meetings and offering comments online, officials said.

An executive summary of the plan was released in late February.

DevelopSpringfield, working with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, city officials and stakeholders and the community, will immediately move to the implementation stage, said Nicholas Fyntrifakis, chairman of the Board of Directors of DevelopSpringfield.

The organization and city will also pursue the maximum possible disaster aid reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Kevin Kennedy, the city's chief development officer.

A key objective of the mater plan is to make sure that residents and stakeholders are able to "track its progress, measure successes, identify areas for improvement, demand accountability, and find inroads to participate in its execution," the plan states.

The plan also identified myriad state and federal funding sources that could assist the Rebuild Springfield effort, including FEMA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

The plan, among its specific recommendations, said there is an "urgent need and great potential to transform Central Street" in the Six Corners area, which was heavily damaged by the tornado. There is a need for new infill housing development in coordination with other public improvements, particularly targeting vacant lots and abandoned properties, the report states.

In the South End area, the report recommends connecting Main Street with the riverfront by making Union Street a "festival street" and programming art in the underpass. The plan also urges the city to assist the South End Community Center and Square One, both displaced by the tornado, to relocate within the neighborhood.

In the East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres area, the plan recommends a major tree replanting effort in the large wooded areas and along streets. In addition, it recommends creating enhanced access to water bodies including Watershops Pond, Bass Pond and Mill Pond.

Kevin Sweeney, executive director of DevelopSpringfield, said a group of community leaders, who appointed as "district leaders" and "domain leaders" in March, will take a lead role in implementing the master plan. While the district leaders focus on neighborhoods that were damaged, the domain leaders will address six citywide areas of concern: education; physical; cultural; social; economic; and organization.

Rebuild Springfield Plan

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DevelopSpringfield seeks public input before finalizing master plan for post-tornado revitalization



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on January 04, 2012 at 5:47 PM

SPRINGFIELD – Proposed recommendations to redevelop Springfield in the aftermath of the **June 1 tornado** will be shared with the public Thursday night, aimed at spurring additional input from residents and business people citywide before a master plan is completed in three weeks.

Thursday's meeting is from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the St. Anthony's Social Center, 375 Island Pond Road.

It marks the final citywide hearing before the "**Rebuild Springfield**" planning committee releases its master plan for Springfield on Jan. 26. It follows more than three months of district meetings and a prior citywide meeting, all aimed assisting with the creation of a comprehensive rebuilding plan for Springfield.

"Community input and participation is really critical at this point," said Nicholas A. Fytrilakis, chairman of **DevelopSpringfield**, which is leading the Rebuild Springfield effort with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority.

Almost all of the recommendations gathered thus far were initially stated or proposed by residents during the planning process, officials said.

"It is a community driven planning process," Fytrilakis said. "Ideas and input that we have received from the community is what is being presented as refined recommendations."

The recommendations range from engaging the public in education reform efforts to improving public transportation, to celebrating the cultural diversity of Springfield.

The goal is to find out what may be missing from the recommendations, or needs to be amended or eliminated, Fytrilakis said.

The tornado on June 1 caused serious damage in Springfield including the downtown and South End (designated as District 1), Six Corners, Upper Hill, Old Hill and Forest Park (District 2), and East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres (District 3). The tornado damaged 577 structures, and has opened the door to federal disaster aid and loans.

The planning committee, aided by consultants and public input, has amassed many recommendations for physical improvements that are neighborhood-specific. Thursday's meeting will primarily deal with citywide recommendations also being gathered.

Suggestions will be refined and prioritized over the next two weeks with the detailed input from both the citywide meeting and Rebuild Springfield website at <http://www.rebuildspringfield.com>.

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City residents begin offering ideas for how to rebuild Springfield following tornado



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

[Follow on Twitter](#)

on October 12, 2011 at 9:02 PM, updated October 13, 2011 at 8:56 AM

SPRINGFIELD – Local officials and consultants that are leading the tornado recovery effort in Springfield said Wednesday that public engagement and ideas are critical to the city's success, as shown in other disaster areas ranging from New Orleans to Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Bobbie Hill, a principal in Concordia LLC of New Orleans, the lead consultant for the Rebuild Springfield effort, said a fully engaged public, including residents and business owners, can be the difference between success and failure in restoring neighborhoods extensively damaged in the June 1 tornadoes that swept through the region.

More than 100 people turned out to the J.C. Williams Center Wednesday night for a neighborhood discussion on ways to rebuild the Six Corners, Old Hill neighborhoods.

People sat in small groups and discussed what they would like to see happen with the rebuilding, what the unique qualities of their neighborhood are, and what they would like to improved. Each group's ideas were then presented to the larger group.

Ron Mallis, an architect who is working on rebuilding the South End, said the ideas put forward at his table were extraordinary.

"Many of these people have been living here a long time. This is a huge asset," he said. "(The city) should listen to them. You build on this," he said, gesturing to the list of ideas on the large sheet of paper.

Michelle Bennefield, 43, who has live in Six Corners all her life, said she has been going to every meeting the city has had on improving the neighborhood, even ones before the tornadoes. Though doubtful there will be positive change, she said she keeps coming to the meetings anyway.

"I have to show up because I believe if you keep showing up and they eventually listen to you, there will be change," she said.

She wanted to see houses rebuilt and better, safer parks for children as a way of strengthening the neighborhood.

Carol Nelson, also of Six Corners, said the rebuild needs to emphasize more businesses and more owner-occupied housing in the neighborhood. She said she was highly doubtful of the outcome, however.

"I don't believe there will be anything coming of it. In this neighborhood, nothing ever gets done," she said. Nonetheless, she said, "It's my neighborhood. You have to keep showing up."

Concordia and partner consultants will develop a draft master plan for rebuilding Springfield, incorporating ideas from the community through public forums, on-line suggestions, one-on-one interviews with stakeholders and other avenues, as was done in other disaster areas, Hill said. Her firm has been involved in disaster recovery efforts in and outside the United States, including New Orleans, Haiti and Japan.

The master plan is slated for completion by the end of the year, and will be presented to the city the first week of January.

UPCOMING REBUILD SPRINGFIELD MEETINGS

Dates, times and locations for upcoming public forums for Rebuild Springfield.

• Metro Center/South End:
Thursday, Oct. 13, 6:30-9:30
p.m., Gentile Apartments
Community Room, 85 Williams
St.

At the Wednesday night meeting, residents discussed rebuilding houses and schools, but also improving parks, bringing in businesses and jobs, and finding ways to bring more stable families back into the neighborhood.

Nicholas A. Fytrilakis, chairman of DevelopSpringfield, the private non-profit agency that hired Concordia, said that although June 1 was a tragic day, "we also really need to view it as an opportunity to move forward" and make Springfield even better and stronger by maximizing its opportunities.

DevelopSpringfield and the Springfield Redevelopment Authority are overseeing the tornado recovery effort, as requested by Mayor Domenic J. Sarno.

• Citywide meeting: Saturday,
Oct. 15, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.,
MassMutual Center

Additional meetings can be
found through
RebuildSpringfield.com

Hill and representatives of Berkebile Nelson Immenschuh McDowell (BNIM), a consulting firm from Kansas City, Mo., said ideas from the public were instrumental in helping New Orleans recover from the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005, and are likewise critical in the effort of Tuscaloosa in rebuilding after tornadoes swept across the Southern United States in April.

BNIM will focus in part on progressive green planning strategies, responsible architecture, and design excellence.

Some of the ideas that emerged in New Orleans, for example, were not only "brick and mortar" projects such as the rebuilding of improved public housing and a local hospital in chosen areas, but also program and policy changes, consultants said. Examples include the formation of a "neighborhood protection network," and amendments to the charter so that the master plan would have the "force of law." Hill said.

The public can offer their ideas and comments through the official Rebuild Springfield Web site: RebuildSpringfield.com.

There was a "very robust community dialogue" and a similar on-line effort in Tuscaloosa, and very good ideas that became part of the master plan, said Robert Berkebile, a principal with BNIM.

It affects public and private properties and public and private investments, officials said.

Such a master plan effort and community involvement has a tendency of giving rise to new leaders in the community, and eliminating bad leadership, Berkebile said.

A community forum, conducted Tuesday at the Holy Cross Gymnasium on Plumtree Road drew approximately 100 participants and many good ideas, Hill said. The forum targeted residents in the East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres areas.

While people asked about issues directly affecting them, such as concerns about the availability of contractors, they also discussed needs in the neighborhood such as ideas for rebuilding community schools, Hill said. Many seemed surprised and pleased that the meeting were broken into round table discussions and their ideas were triggering feedback, she said.

Seven neighborhoods received significant damage from the tornadoes, which also struck communities between Westfield and Charlton. Those seven neighborhoods have been divided into three planning districts, all distinct areas ranging from the residential Sixteen Acres-East Forest Park area, to the denser, poorer area of Six Corners-Upper Hill-Old Hill-Forest Park, to the largely commercial area of the downtown-South End.

Republican reporter Patrick Johnson contributed to this report.

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Rebuilding tornado-damaged Springfield will take a community, according to officials



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on October 10, 2011 at 8:15 AM, updated October 10, 2011 at 4:58 PM

SPRINGFIELD -- It takes a community to rebuild a city after a natural disaster.

That is the theme as organizers are urging the public to participate in a series of public hearings, beginning this week, designed to gather community ideas and strategies for rebuilding Springfield in the aftermath of the June 1 tornado that struck the city and some surrounding communities.

"The purpose of these meetings is to generate as much community input and engagement as possible," said Gerald Hayes, co-chairman of the [Rebuild Springfield](#) effort. "What we found in evaluating the experiences of other communities that have gone through natural disasters and then recover - the best master plans are those that are built from the ground up."

DevelopSpringfield Inc., and the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, the private-public partnership that is leading the Rebuild Springfield effort, are sponsoring the hearings.

Four hearings are scheduled this week including three neighborhood hearings and a citywide hearing on Saturday.

DevelopSpringfield hired Concordia LLC last month to develop a master plan for the tornado recovery efforts in Springfield. The firm played a key role in rebuilding New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and also has experience in disaster-relief efforts in Haiti and Japan.

The master plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year after three rounds of hearings in October, November and December, Hayes said.

The October hearings are for the initial community input, Hayes said. At November hearings, the consultant will be sharing ideas and soliciting feedback.

In December, the consultant will discuss a draft master plan with the community and get further public input before the plan is finalized, Hayes said.

The organizers want "to solicit as much input as possible from neighborhood residents, businesses and other stakeholders," Hayes said. They are looking for the community's thoughts "on a vision for the recovery and challenges to overcome, and understanding what the (community's) aspirations are for the future of the neighborhoods," he said.

The effort goes beyond restoring what was there before the tornado, and improving the quality of the neighborhoods that were damaged, Hayes said.

There was extensive public and private damage resulting from the tornadoes, with millions of dollars in federal aid expected to assist private insurance policies.

The city's cost for rebuilding from the June 1 tornado is expected to reach \$106 million, aided by federal and state assistance, according to estimates. The largest cost, estimated at \$64.9 million, will be for rebuilding the Dryden, Brookings and Zanetti elementary schools and the South End Community Center, according to one estimate.

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Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee schedules 2nd of 4 'listening tours' for tornado rebuilding ideas



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repu0.com

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on August 05, 2011 at 5:29 AM, updated August 05, 2011 at 9:16 AM

SPRINGFIELD – The Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee has three more “listening tours” in August to hear from homeowners, residents and business owners about how they envision their neighborhoods to be rebuilt in the aftermath of the **June 1 tornado**.

The second of four community meetings is scheduled Friday from 6 to 8 p.m., at the J.C. Williams Community Center, 116 Florence St.

Additional tours are scheduled Aug. 11 at the Greenleaf Community Center, 1188½ Parker St., and Aug. 16 at Holy Cross Church, 221 Plumtree Road, both from 6 to 8 p.m.

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Springfield Tornado Recovery Information

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Congressman Richard E. Neal, Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Break Ground for 1916 Garden of Remembrance in Forest Park

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inauguration (Photos)

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Address

Springfield Fire Department Commencement of Recruit Class 2015

Citywide Kwanzaa Celebration 2015

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Events Announced

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Issues Statement on the Passing of Mike Balise

Young Men Matter Too of Springfield Renaissance School Visit Mayor Sarno's Office

Mayor Sarno Kicks Off the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive

Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee Schedules Listening Tours

MEDIA ADVISORY

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psullivan@springfieldcityhall.com
Tel: (413) 787-7770

REBUILD SPRINGFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHEDULES LISTENING TOURS

July 27, 2011 – In collaboration with the DevelopSpringfield and Springfield Redevelopment Authority's Public/Private Partnership, the Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee will be holding a Listening Tour during the month of August to hear from homeowners, residents and businesses about how they envision their neighborhoods to be rebuilt. This is a unique opportunity to improve upon the past and preserve the vital components of each neighborhood.

The tour is part of the overall Master Plan process and the Advisory Committee wants to ensure input has been solicited from each neighborhood in order to share it with the consulting firm that is ultimately chosen to prepare a master plan. Each neighborhood affected by the tornado is unique and has individual characteristics that should be preserved.

The Advisory Committee realizes that an effective Master Plan must reflect the voices of the people and businesses that reside in each neighborhood. These meetings are an opportunity to ensure that everyone is part of the rebuilding process.

The tours are scheduled as follows:

August 2nd	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Milton Bradley School	22 Mulberry Street
August 5th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	JC Williams Comm. Center	116 Florence Street
August 11th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Greenleaf Comm. Center	1188 1/2 Parker Street
August 16th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Holy Cross Church	221 Plumtree Road

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http://www.springfield-ma.gov/cos/index.php?id=1043

1/26/2016

Rebuild Springfield advisory committee sees progress, challenges in tornado recovery



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on July 24, 2011 at 2:00 PM, updated July 25, 2011 at 4:56 AM

SPRINGFIELD – The leaders of **Rebuild Springfield** and a 15-member citizen advisory group say they already see the early signs of recovery from the **June 1 tornado** that left a path of destruction in the region.

But, as the city approaches the two-month anniversary of the tornado, the rubble, leveled trees and boarded buildings seen during a bus tour last week reveal that it will likely take three to five years for a full recovery, officials said.

The advisory committee was transported by bus, on loan from Peter Pan Bus Lines, to damaged areas, as it prepares to assist with creation of a master plan for the rebuilding.

The tour “certainly reinforced the general concept that the master plan has to be built neighborhood by neighborhood,” said Gerald W. Hayes, co-chairman of Rebuild Springfield.

“Every neighborhood is different,” Hayes said. “Each has different characteristics, different challenges, different levels of complications in achieving the rebuilding process. That came through loud and clear.”

Among the positive signs seen was a new colonial home rising along Island Pond Road in the middle of a damaged neighborhood, Hayes said.

In contrast, across town, pieces of the city’s history in the South End were gone or reduced to rubble, he said.

“It’s really kind of heartbreaking,” Hayes said. “Historic rehabilitation the last 25 years, a lot of landmarks are just missing.”

Near Springfield College and the Hickory Street area, with multi-family housing, “land use issues in that area are going to be more complicated to sort out,” Hayes said.

The advisory committee will conduct a series of “listening meetings” in the neighborhoods, Hayes said.

“It’s giving residents an opportunity to express their views, vision, aspirations, and frustrations,” Hayes said.

While in some cases, the outcome is simply replacing the old house with a new house, the master plan will also consider urban renewal opportunities, officials said.

Rebuild Springfield is a public-private partnership led by a public entity, the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, and a private entity, DevelopSpringfield.

Nicholas A. Fyntrilakis, also co-chairman of Rebuild Springfield, had a mixed reaction to what he saw on the tour.

“There is no question, we have a lot of work to do,” Fyntrilakis said. “The good news is that we saw a lot of work being done in some of the neighborhoods. We saw some properties where there was not a lot of activity. We all saw there are opportunities and there are challenges.”

Peter Gagliardi, a member of the advisory committee whose own home was damaged in the South End, said it was "remarkable how many homes are still boarded up, still waiting for work to be done."

In addition, there were large areas now cleared "that one could envision redeveloping in whole new ways," Gagliardi said. He said he is particularly concerned about the damage done to the city's woodland.

A spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Administration said that federal disaster aid is available to cover 75 percent of the damage to public properties not covered by insurance. That can include damage to roads and other infrastructure, public buildings such as schools, and emergency measures, a spokesman said.

The Elias A. Brookings School and Mary A. Dryden School received significant damage.

Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are also available.

Property owners are encouraged to apply for federal aid from FEMA. The deadline for registration is Aug. 15, and can be done by calling the toll-free number at 1-800-621-FEMA.

Surrounding communities that were in the path of tornadoes June 1, continue to respond to the damage left.

In West Springfield, Mayor Edward J. Gibson said Thursday that officials are urging people who took out forms from FEMA and the Small Business Administration from the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Town Hall to return them soon.

"That is the big drive right now," he said.

Only about 10 percent of the people who took out paperwork with the Small Business Administration have returned it, according to the mayor. The deadline for returning FEMA forms is Aug. 15. It is not necessary to wait until getting information from one's insurance company before filing for relief from the federal government, the mayor said.

Next week, state building inspectors will be in the city to go door to door to help the city determine the extent of repairs needed because of the tornado.

Wilbraham Department of Works Director Edmond Miga said the cleanup has cost \$3.5 million so far, with Ashbritt Environmental of Florida, removing downed trees and stumps from town tree belts.

Wilbraham Building inspector Lance Trevallion said the property losses in Wilbraham ranged from minor damage to total loss.

Trevallion said 234 homes with damage were inspected in Wilbraham. Of those, 13 were classified as unsafe for occupancy.

In Monson, 8 percent of the structures in town were damaged by the June 1 tornado. Selectman Edward A. Maia said he thinks a lot of progress has been made, but there is still a lot to be done.

"Unfortunately I think that everyone wants it all done and it's going to be a very long, slow process," Maia said. "I think people are beginning to realize that and getting frustrated."

Maia said the selectmen were asked what they want the downtown to look like, and he responded, "I want it to look like it did on May 31."

Brimfield town officials said they have spent \$420,000 on a contract to remove downed trees and other debris from roadways and another \$130,000 for overtime worked in the first days after the tornado.

Brimfield selectmen said they are hopeful that federal money through FEMA will cover 75 percent of the town expenses. They said property owners lost roughly \$7 million worth of the value in their homes and are dealing with their insurance companies on those losses.

Westfield was spared major damage from the tornado, with cleanup mostly completed within about three weeks of the storm.

City officials say some cleanup and repairs, mostly by residents to personal property and homes, remains.

That includes repairs to the roof at Munger Hill Elementary School where the city has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as the state's School Building Authority to help finance roof replacement.

In all 250 residential homes suffered some damage, ranging from broken windows to roofs. Only three were listed by city officials as extensively damaged.

Staff reporters Lori Stabile, Suzanne McLaughlin, Sandra Constantine, Ted LaBorde and John Appleton contributed to this report.

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Home / News / DevelopSpringfield Announces District and Domain Leaders for Rebuild Springfield Master Plan



DevelopSpringfield Announces District and Domain Leaders for Rebuild Springfield Master Plan

DevelopSpringfield, a non-profit corporation dedicated to advancing development and expediting revitalization within the City of Springfield, announced the "District" and the "Domain" Leaders for the Rebuild Springfield Master Plan.

The Rebuild Springfield Master Plan is the community's vision for the future of its neighborhoods impacted by the June 1, 2011 tornado and for Springfield as a whole.

The Master Plan divides the tornado-impacted area into three planning districts: District One comprises downtown and the South End neighborhood; District Two, composed of the Maple-High Six Corners, Old Hill, Upper Hill and Forest Park neighborhoods; and District Three, including East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres.

In addition to District-specific matters, the Master Plan's implementation will also cover six primary nexus "Domains" that address not only the revitalization needs of the tornado-impacted areas but also the broader vision for future revitalization of the City as a whole.

The following individuals have agreed to serve as "District Leaders":



- District One: Peter Gagliardi (HAP Housing) and Samalid Hogan (City of Springfield)
- District Two: Cee Jackson (Jackson Security/DevelopSpringfield Board of Directors) and Gerry McCafferty (City of Springfield)
- District Three: William Foley (Retired Springfield City Councilor) and David Cruise (Regional Employment Board)

The Master Plan "Domain Leaders" will be:

- Education Domain: John Davis (Davis Foundation) and Pat Spradley (Springfield Public Schools)
- Physical Domain: Tim Brennan (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission) and Brian Connors (City of Springfield)
- Cultural Domain: Ron Anorum (Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts) and José Claudio (New North Citizens Council)
- Social Domain: Deputy Chief John Barblett (Springfield Police Department) and Frank Robinson (Partners for a Healthier Community/ Baystate Health)
- Economic Domain and Organizational Domain: Armando Feliciano (Springfield Redevelopment Authority) and Kevin Sweeney (DevelopSpringfield)

According to Nick Fynbrakakis, chairman of the Board of Directors of DevelopSpringfield, "A plan is only as good as its implementation. DevelopSpringfield will quarterback the Master Plan as well as the Economic and Organizational 'Domains.' The three Districts and six Domains will convene the stakeholders for their areas of focus and will drive the recommendations and further outcomes."

At the District level, those recommendations include land use options for rebuilding structures and areas impacted by the tornado including the South End Community Center, various housing sites and Camp Wilder.

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Additional issues include reforestation and management of vacant lots.

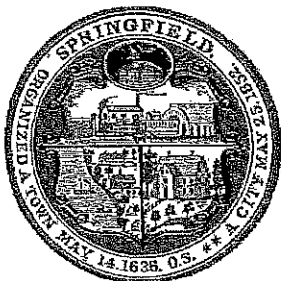
At the Domain level, Master Plan recommendations include strategies to harness Springfield's role as the economic heart of the Pioneer Valley, to streamline investment and encourage economic development and entrepreneurship, to develop a process for transforming vacant structures into community assets, to create a system of connected and integrated partnerships for a continuum of education, and to expand workforce development and educational partnerships for the benefit of all Springfield residents.

"There has been an extraordinary level of public engagement in the Rebuild Springfield dialogue, with over 3,000 individuals participating in the planning process by offering input at public meetings and online," commented Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. "I am pleased that, as a result of this tremendous commitment by the people of the City, we will have a thoughtful plan not only to rebuild from the tornado but also a plan to build a bigger, better, and stronger City."

Mayor Sarno stated, "I am confident that these strong District and Domain Leaders will achieve tangible results for the benefit of all of the citizens of the City."

Springfield News:

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- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Awards Springfield \\$17 Million for Disaster Recovery & Resiliency](#)
- [Springfield City Library Unveils New Logo](#)
- [Springfield Public Schools Announce Increase in Graduation Rate, Decrease in Drop Out Rate](#)
- [Mayor Sarno Welcomes Visitors to Bright Nights](#)
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- [Keeping Kids Safe: Lecture Series Focused on Internet Safety](#)
- [Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and NFL Hall of Famer Andre Tippett Visits Central High School to Discuss Violence Prevention with Students](#)
- [Jim McCoubrey's Retirement Coffee Hour at City Hall](#)
- [Cradles to Cravens Expands Partnership to Springfield Public Schools, Donates 1,000 Winter Coats for Children in Need](#)
- [Mayor Sarno, Congressman Neal, Commissioner Barbieri, City Councilor Tom Ashe and Fenton Family Announce Naming of Paul J. Fenton Public Safety Annex](#)
- [Arthur MacArthur United States Army Reserve Center to Transfer Deed to City of Springfield for Paul J. Fenton Public Safety Annex](#)



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 James	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 Fytrilakis.

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. Fyntilakis, Chairman of DevelopSpringfield at info@developspringfield.com. To obtain a copy of the RFQ, go to DevelopSpringfield.com.

###

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Compliance*
36 Court Street - Room 405
Springfield, MA 01103
Phone (413) 750-2114
Fax (413) 750-2623



THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

January 20, 2016

Wesley & Eulah James
27 Ina Street
Springfield, MA 01109

Re: Central Street Corridor Realignment Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate your comments submitted to my office and am writing to provide background to the Central Street Corridor Realignment Project and to respond to your concerns regarding the necessity and public input into the project.

Immediately following the June 1, 2011 tornado, the City of Springfield embarked on planning studies that were focused on allowing the impacted neighborhoods to recover, not just in the short term, but in the long term also. The "Rebuild Springfield Plan" was initiated in July of 2012 and continued its process with the generation of a final report in February 2012. The plan itself split the impacted corridor into 3 separate districts within the City where numerous individual meetings, public presentations, interactive planning meetings and public hearings were held. Based upon input of over 3,000 residents at public meetings and the public planning process, redevelopment plans were developed and presented to all of the involved entities and neighborhood groups.

At that same time, but separate from the District studies, the Springfield DPW had identified the Central Street corridor as an area of significant concern and was beginning to develop necessary documents relative to upgrading traffic flow, pavement condition, pedestrian flow, and utility upgrades. It was determined by DPW that the condition of the area required an immediate plan to outline needed improvements. Once the ReBuild Springfield study was undertaken, both study tasks were merged into one project and have moved forward together since that point in time.

The proposed project area along the Central Street corridor falls within District 2 of the ReBuild Springfield report which focuses on the Maple High – Six Corners, Old Hill, Upper Hill and Forest Park neighborhood that were impacted.

Listening Tours were scheduled on August 2, 2011, August 5, 2011, August 11, 2011 and August 16, 2011 to solicit initial ideas from residents on how the impacted neighborhoods should be rebuilt. Additionally, as part of developing the final plan, Public Hearings were held on October 12, 2011, November 15, 2011 and December 14, 2011 to solicit additional feedback from residents, not to just specifically address tornado recovery issues, but to also address other issues that plague the neighborhood. All of these comments were gathered and action plans were developed. While issues such as crime, education, poverty were discussed, there was also a significant amount of infrastructure, roadway and vehicular and pedestrian circulation

issues that were brought up by residents of the neighborhood. These became the focus of the Department of Public Works.

Within the final Rebuild Springfield Report, released publicly on April 26, 2012, the concept of an improved Central Street / Hickory St corridor was presented that also included revised traffic patterns to Rifle St. and Allen St. The proposed improvement sketch is shown on Page 55 of the District 2 Final Report and on Page 12 of the Rebuild Springfield Progress Report, released publicly June 5, 2014. Both plans can be viewed by the public at http://developspringfield.com/projects/rebuild_springfield.html.

The DPW then took these concepts and began to turn them into specific design plans to determine proper roadway layout to address all of the public concerns. As part of the traffic studies undertaken, traffic flow patterns and destination analyses were performed to determine main routes of traffic flow. Destinations such as the new Brookings School, Springfield College and Mass Mutual were determined to be the major point of origination / destination for traffic through the corridor. Based upon the traffic flow projections it was determined that the current layout of the Central St., Rifle St. Allen St., Walnut St. and Hickory St. was very inefficient and changes to the existing traffic patterns was needed. Current roadway and intersection layouts were analyzed and determined to be unacceptable, and improvements to the existing corridor were not feasible due to issues such as:

- Limited Right-of-Way
- Streams and Buffers
- Property Impacts
- Proposed traffic flow patterns
- Traffic Congestion
- Roadway Alignment
- Excessive Costs
- Cost of Utility Upgrades

As part of developing the design / layout plans of the proposed roadway, it was determined early in the process that both public and private properties would be impacted regardless of the layout option developed. In proceeding with the designs and implementing necessary design standards (lane widths, shoulder widths, corner radii, etc.), various roadway layout options were developed and analyzed based upon efficiency, vehicular and pedestrian safety, public safety, property impacts, etc. It was determined that the most acceptable and efficient layout was a layout very similar to the plan shown in the ReBuild Springfield report.

As the specific layout was developed further it was determined that the existing Hickory St. corridor adjacent to Ruth Elizabeth Park, which is currently one-way, would need to be widened to accommodate two way traffic. The remainder of the project to the east would also require a complete upgrade of the Allen St., Hickory St. & Walnut St. intersection as well as alignment and widening improvement to Hickory St. to the east of the intersection. Numerous layout options were developed and analyzed and it was determined that each layout developed would require land taking and construction easement

After numerous layout options were further developed and evaluated, the City wanted to develop a layout that would have the least amount of impact to property owners, and the least need for actual land taking and easements. Under any of the design scenarios developed, the property on the northwest corner of the Central St. / Hancock St. intersection (service station) would need to be taken in its entirety. The next area reviewed was the Hickory St. corridor between Hancock and Allen St. As the right-of-way was too narrow to accommodate the proposed two-way alignment, either the south or north side of the roadway would be impacted. If the roadway was to be widened towards the south, it was determined that a minimum of three properties (2 residential and 1 business) would have to be taken in their entirety, while if the roadway was widened to the north two properties (1 residential and 1 business) would be taken. Therefore the widening to the north would be the least impactful. But it was also determined that the Ruth Elizabeth Park would also be impacted and fall under the State / Federal 6f process. Even with this process added to the project

the City felt that minimizing the impact to the adjacent private properties was the most important aspect of the project, thus the current alignment is what has been advanced to final design.

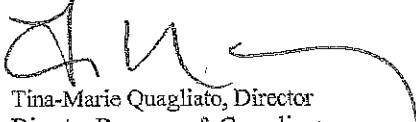
Early in 2014 the impacted property owners were contacted by the City and the roadway layout options were presented, and it was discussed how and why their property was needed by the City. At the same time the City also arranged that each owner meet with the City's relocation consultant so that they could be informed of their right under the law and what the City's financial obligations to each of them will be throughout the process. The City informed all property owners that there would be a time gap between the meeting and when the City would be moving forward with land takings, as there was significant due diligence that needed to be completed. Due diligence included multiple appraisals, environmental investigation and environmental review. It may be important to note that necessary due diligence on some of the properties has taken longer than others. At this time the City is continuing to work on the necessary due diligence for these potential takings. As I'm sure you are aware, all property owners voluntarily signed access agreements to allow the City to access their property for necessary due diligence at the time of the initial meeting. Additionally, as the City has been conducting its ongoing due diligence, there has been ongoing contact with impacted property owners and a second round of voluntary access agreements were signed in Fall 2015 by certain owners, which has allowed the necessary due diligence to continue. At the time these agreements were signed, questions and updates were provided to the impacted property owners.

The City anticipates that there will be an additional public meeting regarding the specific proposed design for the realignment. However, the date of this meeting has not been set at this time. You can be assured that once this date has been set, as an impacted property owner, you will be notified and will be welcome to attend.

As you may also recall the City informed owners at the initial meeting and in subsequent conversations with property owners and/or their attorneys, that there was staff available at the Office of Disaster Recovery & Compliance to answer questions and/or provide updates to landowners as necessary (413)750-2114. Some property owners have utilized this point of contact to receive updates and/or answer any questions that have come up during this process, and the City encourages all property owners and/or impacted tenants with questions to continue to utilize this contact as the project progresses.

As always the City appreciates feedback and comment regarding ongoing projects. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tina-Marie Quagliato, Director
Disaster Recovery & Compliance

Cc: Mayor Domenic J. Samo
Kevin Kennedy, Chief Development Officer
Chris Cignoli, Director, Department of Public Works
Steve Mollica, City Relocation Specialist
Kathleen T. Breck, Deputy City Solicitor
Robert Schuymeko, HUD Boston Field Office

DevelopSpringfield unveils master plan for post-tornado revitalization of city



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on April 26, 2012 at 4:59 PM, updated April 26, 2012 at 6:39 PM

SPRINGFIELD – **DevelopSpringfield**, a private nonprofit organization leading the “**Rebuild Springfield**” effort, released its full, formal master plan Thursday that discloses long-term strategies to revitalize the city following last **June’s tornado**.

Representatives of DevelopSpringfield and city officials, including Mayor **Domenic J. Sarno**, praised the “Rebuild Springfield” master plan during an afternoon press conference at City Hall. The release of the approximate 900-page plan [see document at end of this article], described as the size of “two telephone books,” follows months of study and extensive public input.

“I need the city to rally behind this plan,” Sarno said. “This has been a grassroots effort. This plan was put together to say how can we not only rebuild the tornado-ravaged areas, but more importantly, let’s build on the strengths of the city of Springfield, and let’s conquer those urban challenges that urban centers face across the United States.”

Gerald W. Hayes, co-chairman of the Rebuild Springfield effort, said that implementation of the plan could take three to five years, and will likely require hundreds of millions of dollars. Federal disaster aid, other state and federal sources funds, and private contributions and investment will be needed, officials said.

More than 3,000 people participated in the planning process in attending community meetings and offering comments online, officials said.

An executive summary of the plan was released in late February.

DevelopSpringfield, working with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, city officials and stakeholders and the community, will immediately move to the implementation stage, said Nicholas Fytrilakis, chairman of the Board of Directors of DevelopSpringfield.

The organization and city will also pursue the maximum possible disaster aid reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Kevin Kennedy, the city’s chief development officer.

A key objective of the mater plan is to make sure that residents and stakeholders are able to “track its progress, measure successes, identify areas for improvement, demand accountability, and find inroads to participate in its execution,” the plan states.

The plan also identified myriad state and federal funding sources that could assist the Rebuild Springfield effort, including FEMA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

The plan, among its specific recommendations, said there is an “urgent need and great potential to transform Central Street” in the Six Corners area, which was heavily damaged by the tornado. There is a need for new infill housing development in coordination with other public improvements, particularly targeting vacant lots and abandoned properties, the report states.

In the South End area, the report recommends connecting Main Street with the riverfront by making Union Street a "festival street" and programming art in the underpass. The plan also urges the city to assist the South End Community Center and Square One, both displaced by the tornado, to relocate within the neighborhood.

In the East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres area, the plan recommends a major tree replanting effort in the large wooded areas and along streets. In addition, it recommends creating enhanced access to water bodies including Watershops Pond, Bass Pond and Mill Pond.

Kevin Sweeney, executive director of DevelopSpringfield, said a group of community leaders, who appointed as "district leaders" and "domain leaders" in March, will take a lead role in implementing the master plan. While the district leaders focus on neighborhoods that were damaged, the domain leaders will address six citywide areas of concern: education; physical; cultural; social; economic; and organization.

[Rebuild Springfield Plan](#)

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DevelopSpringfield seeks public input before finalizing master plan for post-tornado revitalization



By Peter Noonan | pnoonan@repub.com

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on January 04, 2012 at 5:47 PM

SPRINGFIELD – Proposed recommendations to redevelop Springfield in the aftermath of the June 1 tornado will be shared with the public Thursday night, aimed at spurring additional input from residents and business people citywide before a master plan is completed in three weeks.

Thursday's meeting is from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the St. Anthony's Social Center, 375 Island Pond Road.

It marks the final citywide hearing before the "Rebuild Springfield" planning committee releases its master plan for Springfield on Jan. 26. It follows more than three months of district meetings and a prior citywide meeting, all aimed assisting with the creation of a comprehensive rebuilding plan for Springfield.

"Community input and participation is really critical at this point," said Nicholas A. Fytrilakis, chairman of DevelopSpringfield, which is leading the Rebuild Springfield effort with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority.

Almost all of the recommendations gathered thus far were initially stated or proposed by residents during the planning process, officials said.

"It is a community driven planning process," Fytrilakis said. "Ideas and input that we have received from the community is what is being presented as refined recommendations."

The recommendations range from engaging the public in education reform efforts to improving public transportation, to celebrating the cultural diversity of Springfield.

The goal is to find out what may be missing from the recommendations, or needs to be amended or eliminated, Fytrilakis said.

The tornado on June 1 caused serious damage in Springfield including the downtown and South End (designated as District 1), Six Corners, Upper Hill, Old Hill and Forest Park (District 2), and East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres (District 3). The tornado damaged 577 structures, and has opened the door to federal disaster aid and loans.

The planning committee, aided by consultants and public input, has amassed many recommendations for physical improvements that are neighborhood-specific. Thursday's meeting will primarily deal with citywide recommendations also being gathered.

Suggestions will be refined and prioritized over the next two weeks with the detailed input from both the citywide meeting and Rebuild Springfield website at <http://www.rebuildspringfield.com>.

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City residents begin offering ideas for how to rebuild Springfield following tornado



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@reptb.com

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on October 12, 2011 at 9:02 PM, updated October 13, 2011 at 8:56 AM

SPRINGFIELD -- Local officials and consultants that are leading the tornado recovery effort in Springfield said Wednesday that public engagement and ideas are critical to the city's success, as shown in other disaster areas ranging from New Orleans to Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Bobbie Hill, a principal in Concordia LLC of New Orleans, the lead consultant for the Rebuild Springfield effort, said a fully engaged public, including residents and business owners, can be the difference between success and failure in restoring neighborhoods extensively damaged in the June 1 tornadoes that swept through the region.

More than 100 people turned out to the J.C. Williams Center Wednesday night for a neighborhood discussion on ways to rebuild the Six Corners, Old Hill neighborhoods.

People sat in small groups and discussed what they would like to see happen with the rebuilding, what the unique qualities of their neighborhood are, and what they would like to be improved. Each group's ideas were then presented to the larger group.

Ron Mallis, an architect who is working on rebuilding the South End, said the ideas put forward at his table were extraordinary.

"Many of these people have been living here a long time. This is a huge asset," he said. "(The city) should listen to them. You build on this," he said, gesturing to the list of ideas on the large sheet of paper.

Michelle Bennefield, 43, who has lived in Six Corners all her life, said she has been going to every meeting the city has had on improving the neighborhood, even ones before the tornadoes. Though doubtful there will be positive change, she said she keeps coming to the meetings anyway.

"I have to show up because I believe if you keep showing up and they eventually listen to you, there will be change," she said.

She wanted to see houses rebuilt and better, safer parks for children as a way of strengthening the neighborhood.

Carol Nelson, also of Six Corners, said the rebuild needs to emphasize more businesses and more owner-occupied housing in the neighborhood. She said she was highly doubtful of the outcome, however.

"I don't believe there will be anything coming of it. In this neighborhood, nothing ever gets done," she said. Nonetheless, she said, "It's my neighborhood. You have to keep showing up."

Concordia and partner consultants will develop a draft master plan for rebuilding Springfield, incorporating ideas from the community through public forums, on-line suggestions, one-on-one interviews with stakeholders and other avenues, as was done in other disaster areas, Hill said. Her firm has been involved in disaster recovery efforts in and outside the United States, including New Orleans, Haiti and Japan.

The master plan is slated for completion by the end of the year, and will be presented to the city the first week of January.

UPCOMING REBUILD SPRINGFIELD MEETINGS

Dates, times and locations for
upcoming public forums for
Rebuild Springfield.

- Metro Center/South End:
Thursday, Oct. 13, 6:30-9:30
p.m., Gentile Apartments
Community Room, 85 Williams
St.

At the Wednesday night meeting, residents discussed rebuilding houses and schools, but also improving parks, bringing in businesses and jobs, and finding ways to bring more stable families back into the neighborhood.

Nicholas A. Fyntrilakis, chairman of DevelopSpringfield, the private non-profit agency that hired Concordia, said that although June 1 was a tragic day, "we also really need to view it as an opportunity to move forward" and make Springfield even better and stronger by maximizing its opportunities.

DevelopSpringfield and the Springfield Redevelopment Authority are overseeing the tornado recovery effort, as requested by Mayor Domenic J. Sarno.

Hill and representatives of Berkebile Nelson Immenschuh McDowell (BNIM), a consulting firm from Kansas City, Mo., said ideas from the public were instrumental in helping New Orleans recover from the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005, and are likewise critical in the effort of Tuscaloosa in rebuilding after tornadoes swept across the Southern United States in April.

BNIM will focus in part on progressive green planning strategies, responsible architecture, and design excellence.

Some of the ideas that emerged in New Orleans, for example, were not only "brick and mortar" projects such as the rebuilding of improved public housing and a local hospital in chosen areas, but also program and policy changes, consultants said. Examples include the formation of a "neighborhood protection network," and amendments to the charter so that the master plan would have the "force of law," Hill said.

The public can offer their ideas and comments through the official Rebuild Springfield Web site: RebuildSpringfield.com.

There was a "very robust community dialogue" and a similar on-line effort in Tuscaloosa, and very good ideas that became part of the master plan, said Robert Berkebile, a principal with BNIM.

It affects public and private properties and public and private investments, officials said.

Such a master plan effort and community involvement has a tendency of giving rise to new leaders in the community, and eliminating bad leadership, Berkebile said.

A community forum, conducted Tuesday at the Holy Cross Gymnasium on Plumtree Road drew approximately 100 participants and many good ideas, Hill said. The forum targeted residents in the East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres areas.

While people asked about issues directly affecting them, such as concerns about the availability of contractors, they also discussed needs in the neighborhood such as ideas for rebuilding community schools, Hill said. Many seemed surprised and pleased that the meeting were broken into round table discussions and their ideas were triggering feedback, she said.

Seven neighborhoods received significant damage from the tornadoes, which also struck communities between Westfield and Charlton. Those seven neighborhoods have been divided into three planning districts, all distinct areas ranging from the residential Sixteen Acres-East Forest Park area, to the denser, poorer area of Six Corners-Upper Hill-Old Hill-Forest Park, to the largely commercial area of the downtown-South End.

Republican reporter Patrick Johnson contributed to this report.

• Citywide meeting: Saturday,
Oct. 15, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.,
MassMutual Center

Additional meetings can be
found through
RebuildSpringfield.com

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Rebuilding tornado-damaged Springfield will take a community, according to officials



By Peter Coonan | pcoonan@repub.com

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on October 10, 2011 at 8:15 AM, updated October 10, 2011 at 4:58 PM

SPRINGFIELD — it takes a community to rebuild a city after a natural disaster.

That is the theme as organizers are urging the public to participate in a series of public hearings, beginning this week, designed to gather community ideas and strategies for rebuilding Springfield in the aftermath of the June 1 tornado that struck the city and some surrounding communities.

"The purpose of these meetings is to generate as much community input and engagement as possible," said Gerald Hayes, co-chairman of the **Rebuild Springfield** effort. "What we found in evaluating the experiences of other communities that have gone through natural disasters and then recover - the best master plans are those that are built from the ground up."

DevelopSpringfield Inc., and the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, the private-public partnership that is leading the Rebuild Springfield effort, are sponsoring the hearings.

Four hearings are scheduled this week including three neighborhood hearings and a citywide hearing on Saturday.

DevelopSpringfield hired Concordia LLC last month to develop a master plan for the tornado recovery efforts in Springfield. The firm played a key role in rebuilding New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and also has experience in disaster-relief efforts in Haiti and Japan.

The master plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year after three rounds of hearings in October, November and December, Hayes said.

The October hearings are for the initial community input, Hayes said. At November hearings, the consultant will be sharing ideas and soliciting feedback.

In December, the consultant will discuss a draft master plan with the community and get further public input before the plan is finalized, Hayes said.

The organizers want "to solicit as much input as possible from neighborhood residents, businesses and other stakeholders," Hayes said. They are looking for the community's thoughts "on a vision for the recovery and challenges to overcome, and understanding what the (community's) aspirations are for the future of the neighborhoods," he said.

The effort goes beyond restoring what was there before the **tornado**, and improving the quality of the neighborhoods that were damaged, Hayes said.

There was extensive public and private damage resulting from the tornadoes, with millions of dollars in federal aid expected to assist private insurance policies.

The city's cost for rebuilding from the June 1 tornado is expected to reach \$106 million, aided by federal and state assistance, according to estimates. The largest cost, estimated at \$64.9 million, will be for rebuilding the Dryden, Brookings and Zanetti elementary schools and the South End Community Center, according to one estimate.

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Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee schedules 2nd of 4 'listening tours' for tornado rebuilding ideas



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on August 05, 2011 at 5:29 AM, updated August 05, 2011 at 9:16 AM

SPRINGFIELD – The Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee has three more “listening tours” in August to hear from homeowners, residents and business owners about how they envision their neighborhoods to be rebuilt in the aftermath of the **June 1 tornado**.

The second of four community meetings is scheduled Friday from 6 to 8 p.m., at the J.C. Williams Community Center, 116 Florence St.

Additional tours are scheduled Aug. 11 at the Greenleaf Community Center, 1188½ Parker St., and Aug. 16 at Holy Cross Church, 221 Plumtree Road, both from 6 to 8 p.m.

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Springfield Tornado Recovery Information

PRESS RELEASE: HUD Awards City of Springfield \$17 Million for Resilience Projects

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Awards Springfield \$17 Million for Disaster Recovery & Resiliency

Springfield City Library Unveils New Logo

Springfield Public Schools Announce Increase in Graduation Rate, Decrease in Drop Out Rate

Mayor Sarno Welcomes Visitors to Bright Nights

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Elected Officials, Business and Community Leaders Attend MGM Springfield Site Tour

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Atty. John Liebal's Retirement Coffee Hour

Zane Hill School Demolition

Irish Crooners Visit Mayor Sarno

MassDOT Public Hearing for Roosevelt Avenue and Island Pond Road Intersection Improvements Project

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Inaugural Events to Conclude with Inaugural Gala

Congressman Richard E. Neal, Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Break Ground for 1916 Garden of Remembrance in Forest Park

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inauguration (Photos)

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Address

Springfield Fire Department Commencement of Recruit Class 2015

Citywide Kwanzaa Celebration 2015

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Events Announced

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Issues Statement on the Passing of Mike Balise

Young Men Matter Too of Springfield Renaissance School Visit Mayor Sarno's Office

Mayor Sarno Kicks Off the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive

Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee Schedules Listening Tours

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
 Pat Sullivan
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REBUILD SPRINGFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHEDULES LISTENING TOURS

July 27, 2011 -- In collaboration with the DevelopSpringfield and Springfield Redevelopment Authority's Public/Private Partnership, the Rebuild Springfield Advisory Committee will be holding a Listening Tour during the month of August to hear from homeowners, residents and businesses about how they envision their neighborhoods to be rebuilt. This is a unique opportunity to improve upon the past and preserve the vital components of each neighborhood.

The tour is part of the overall Master Plan process and the Advisory Committee wants to ensure input has been solicited from each neighborhood in order to share it with the consulting firm that is ultimately chosen to prepare a master plan. Each neighborhood affected by the tornado is unique and has individual characteristics that should be preserved.

The Advisory Committee realizes that an effective Master Plan must reflect the voices of the people and businesses that reside in each neighborhood. These meetings are an opportunity to ensure that everyone is part of the rebuilding process.

The tours are scheduled as follows:

August 2nd	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Milton Bradley School	22 Mulberry Street
August 5th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	JC Williams Comm. Center	116 Florence Street
August 11th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Greenleaf Comm. Center	1188 1/2 Parker Street
August 16th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Holy Cross Church	221 Plumtree Road

###

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Page last updated: Monday, June 03, 2013 03:22 pm

Rebuild Springfield advisory committee sees progress, challenges in tornado recovery



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com

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on July 24, 2011 at 2:00 PM, updated July 25, 2011 at 4:56 AM

SPRINGFIELD – The leaders of **Rebuild Springfield** and a 15-member citizen advisory group say they already see the early signs of recovery from the **June 1 tornado** that left a path of destruction in the region.

But, as the city approaches the two-month anniversary of the tornado, the rubble, leveled trees and boarded buildings seen during a bus tour last week reveal that it will likely take three to five years for a full recovery, officials said.

The advisory committee was transported by bus, on loan from Peter Pan Bus Lines, to damaged areas, as it prepares to assist with creation of a master plan for the rebuilding.

The tour "certainly reinforced the general concept that the master plan has to be built neighborhood by neighborhood," said Gerald W. Hayes, co-chairman of Rebuild Springfield.

"Every neighborhood is different," Hayes said. "Each has different characteristics, different challenges, different levels of complications in achieving the rebuilding process. That came through loud and clear."

Among the positive signs seen was a new colonial home rising along Island Pond Road in the middle of a damaged neighborhood, Hayes said.

In contrast, across town, pieces of the city's history in the South End were gone or reduced to rubble, he said.

"It's really kind of heartbreaking," Hayes said. "Historic rehabilitation the last 25 years, a lot of landmarks are just missing."

Near Springfield College and the Hickory Street area, with multi-family housing, "land use issues in that area are going to be more complicated to sort out," Hayes said.

The advisory committee will conduct a series of "listening meetings" in the neighborhoods, Hayes said.

"It's giving residents an opportunity to express their views, vision, aspirations, and frustrations," Hayes said.

While in some cases, the outcome is simply replacing the old house with a new house, the master plan will also consider urban renewal opportunities, officials said.

Rebuild Springfield is a public-private partnership led by a public entity, the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, and a private entity, DevelopSpringfield.

Nicholas A. Fyntrilakis, also co-chairman of Rebuild Springfield, had a mixed reaction to what he saw on the tour.

"There is no question, we have a lot of work to do," Fyntrilakis said. "The good news is that we saw a lot of work being done in some of the neighborhoods. We saw some properties where there was not a lot of activity. We all saw there are opportunities and there are challenges."

Peter Gagliardi, a member of the advisory committee whose own home was damaged in the South End, said it was "remarkable how many homes are still boarded up, still waiting for work to be done."

In addition, there were large areas now cleared "that one could envision redeveloping in whole new ways," Gagliardi said. He said he is particularly concerned about the damage done to the city's woodland.

A spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Administration said that federal disaster aid is available to cover 75 percent of the damage to public properties not covered by insurance. That can include damage to roads and other infrastructure, public buildings such as schools, and emergency measures, a spokesman said.

The Elias A. Brookings School and Mary A. Dryden School received significant damage.

Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are also available.

Property owners are encouraged to apply for federal aid from FEMA. The deadline for registration is Aug. 15, and can be done by calling the toll-free number at 1-800-621-FEMA.

Surrounding communities that were in the path of tornadoes June 1, continue to respond to the damage left.

In **West Springfield**, Mayor Edward J. Gibson said Thursday that officials are urging people who took out forms from FEMA and the Small Business Administration from the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Town Hall to return them soon.

"That is the big drive right now," he said.

Only about 10 percent of the people who took out paperwork with the Small Business Administration have returned it, according to the mayor. The deadline for returning FEMA forms is Aug. 15. It is not necessary to wait until getting information from one's insurance company before filing for relief from the federal government, the mayor said.

Next week, state building inspectors will be in the city to go door to door to help the city determine the extent of repairs needed because of the tornado.

Wilbraham Department of Works Director Edmond Miga said the cleanup has cost \$3.5 million so far, with Ashbritt Environmental of Florida, removing downed trees and stumps from town tree belts.

Wilbraham Building Inspector Lance Trevallion said the property losses in Wilbraham ranged from minor damage to total loss.

Trevallion said 234 homes with damage were inspected in Wilbraham. Of those, 13 were classified as unsafe for occupancy.

In **Monson**, 8 percent of the structures in town were damaged by the June 1 tornado. Selectman Edward A. Maia said he thinks a lot of progress has been made, but there is still a lot to be done.

"Unfortunately I think that everyone wants it all done and it's going to be a very long, slow process," Maia said. "I think people are beginning to realize that and getting frustrated."

Maia said the selectmen were asked what they want the downtown to look like, and he responded, "I want it to look like it did on May 31."

Brimfield town officials said they have spent \$420,000 on a contract to remove downed trees and other debris from roadways and another \$130,000 for overtime worked in the first days after the tornado.

Brimfield selectmen said they are hopeful that federal money through FEMA will cover 75 percent of the town expenses. They said property owners lost roughly \$7 million worth of the value in their homes and are dealing with their insurance companies on those losses.

Westfield was spared major damage from the tornado, with cleanup mostly completed within about three weeks of the storm.

City officials say some cleanup and repairs, mostly by residents to personal property and homes, remains.

That includes repairs to the roof at Munger Hill Elementary School where the city has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as the state's School Building Authority to help finance roof replacement.

In all 250 residential homes suffered some damage, ranging from broken windows to roofs. Only three were listed by city officials as extensively damaged.

Staff reporters Lori Stabile, Suzanne McLaughlin, Sandra Constantine, Ted LaBorde and John Appleton contributed to this report.

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Springfield City Hall

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103 ([map](#))
Public hours vary by dept.

311 Call Center
Phone: 311 or 413.736.3111
TTY: relay to 413.736.3111
Mon-Fri 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Clerk, Collector, Treasurer
M, Tu, W, F: 8:30 am - 4 pm
Thursday: 8:30 am - 6 pm

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DevelopSpringfield Announces District and Domain Leaders for Rebuild Springfield Master Plan

DevelopSpringfield, a non-profit corporation dedicated to advancing development and expediting revitalization within the City of Springfield, announced the "District" and the "Domain" Leaders for the Rebuild Springfield Master Plan.

The Rebuild Springfield Master Plan is the community's vision for the future of its neighborhoods impacted by the June 1, 2011 tornado and for Springfield as a whole.

The Master Plan divides the tornado-impacted area into three planning districts: District One comprises downtown and the South End neighborhood; District Two, composed of the Maple-High Six Corners, Old Hill, Upper Hill and Forest Park neighborhoods; and District Three, including East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres.

In addition to District-specific matters, the Master Plan's implementation will also cover six primary nexus "Domains" that address not only the revitalization needs of the tornado-impacted areas but also the broader vision for future revitalization of the City as a whole.

The following individuals have agreed to serve as "District Leaders":

- District One: Peter Gagliardi (HAP Housing) and Samalid Hogan (City of Springfield)
- District Two: Cee Jackson (Jackson Security/DevelopSpringfield Board of Directors) and Garry McCafferty (City of Springfield)
- District Three: William Foley (Retired Springfield City Councilor) and David Cruise (Regional Employment Board)

The Master Plan "Domain Leaders" will be:

- Education Domain: John Davis (Davis Foundation) and Pat Spradley (Springfield Public Schools)
- Physical Domain: Tim Brennan (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission) and Brian Connors (City of Springfield)
- Cultural Domain: Ron Ancrum (Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts) and José Claudio (New North Citizens Council)
- Social Domain: Deputy Chief John Barbieri (Springfield Police Department) and Frank Robinson (Partners for a Healthier Community/ Baystate Health)
- Economic Domain and Organizational Domain: Armando Feliciano (Springfield Redevelopment Authority) and Kevin Sweeney (DevelopSpringfield)

According to Nick Fytrifakis, chairman of the Board of Directors of DevelopSpringfield, "A plan is only as good as its implementation. DevelopSpringfield will quarterback the Master Plan as well as the Economic and Organizational 'Domains.' The three Districts and six Domains will convene the stakeholders for their areas of focus and will drive the recommendations and further outcomes."

At the District level, those recommendations include land use options for rebuilding structures and areas impacted by the tornado including the South End Community Center, various housing sites and Camp Wilder.

Additional issues include reforestation and management of vacant lots.

At the Domain level, Master Plan recommendations include strategies to harness Springfield's role as the economic heart of the Pioneer Valley, to streamline investment and encourage economic development and entrepreneurship, to develop a process for transforming vacant structures into community assets, to create a system of connected and integrated partnerships for a continuum of education, and to expand workforce development and educational partnerships for the benefit of all Springfield residents.

"There has been an extraordinary level of public engagement in the Rebuild Springfield dialogue, with over 3,000 individuals participating in the planning process by offering input at public meetings and online," commented Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. "I am pleased that, as a result of this tremendous commitment by the people of the City, we will have a thoughtful plan not only to rebuild from the tornado but also a plan to build a bigger, better, and stronger City."

Mayor Sarno stated, "I am confident that these strong District and Domain Leaders will achieve tangible results for the benefit of all of the citizens of the City."

Springfield News:

- [PRESS RELEASE: HUD Awards City of Springfield \\$17 Million for Resilience Projects](#)
- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Awards Springfield \\$17 Million for Disaster Recovery & Resiliency](#)
- [Springfield City Library Unveils New Logo](#)
- [Springfield Public Schools Announce Increase in Graduation Rate, Decrease in Drop Out Rate](#)
- [Mayor Sarno Welcomes Visitors to Bright Nights](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Elected Officials, Business and Community Leaders Attend MGM Springfield Site Tour](#)
- [Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)
- [Atty. John Liebel's Retirement Coffee Hour](#)
- [Zanetti School Demolition](#)
- [Irish Crooners Visit Mayor Sarno](#)
- [MassDOT Public Hearing for Roosevelt Avenue and Island Pond Road Intersection Improvements Project](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Inaugural Events to Conclude with Inaugural Gala](#)
- [Congressman Richard E. Neal, Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Break Ground for 1916 Garden of Remembrance in Forest Park](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inauguration \(Photos\)](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Address](#)
- [Springfield Fire Department Commencement of Recruit Class 2015](#)
- [Citywide Kwanzaa Celebration 2015](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's Fourth Inaugural Events Announced](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno Issues Statement on the Passing of Mike Balise](#)
- [Young Men Matter Too of Springfield Renaissance School Visit Mayor Sarno's Office](#)
- [Mayor Sarno Kicks Off the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive](#)
- [South Branch Park Named in Honor of Fallen Springfield Marine Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan](#)
- [Governor Charlie Baker Visits Duquoin Academy](#)
- [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and MassDOT Officials Tour Union Station](#)
- [Keeping Kids Safe; Lecture Series Focused on Internet Safety](#)
- [Massachusetts Attorney General Maure Healey and NFL Hall of Famer Andre Tippett Visits Central High School to Discuss Violence Prevention with Students](#)
- [Jim McCoubrey's Retirement Coffee Hour at City Hall](#)
- [Cradles to Cravons Expands Partnership to Springfield Public Schools, Donates 1,000 Winter Coats for Children in Need](#)
- [Mayor Sarno, Congressman Neal, Commissioner Barberi, City Councilor Tom Ashe and Fenton Family Announce Naming of Paul J. Fenton Public Safety Annex](#)
- [Arthur MacArthur United States Army Reserve Center to Transfer Deed to City of Springfield for Paul J. Fenton Public Safety Annex](#)



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 James	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 Fyntilakis.

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. Fyntilakis, Chairman of DevelopSpringfield at info@developspringfield.com. To obtain a copy of the RFQ, go to DevelopSpringfield.com.

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