



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Springfield Announces \$13 Million FEMA Grant

Springfield, MA – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded the City of Springfield \$13,608,495.75 in federal funding relating to the tornado of 2011.

The funding is being awarded to the City as a result of a damages sustained to the Howard Street Armory building during the 2011 tornado. The funding is available through the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act, intended to renovate or replace facilities destroyed or damaged as a result of natural disasters, and is authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Through the Stafford Act, the Public Assistance (PA) Program allows FEMA to implement alternative procedures through a pilot program, which the City and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) submitted a request to participate in.

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno said, “First of all, very thankful to our internal team lead by our Chief Administrative and Financial Officer TJ Plante and especially to Congressman Neal’s continued steadfast efforts to secure these vital rebuilding funds. Also, thanks to FEMA and MEMA officials. We continue to push appeal after appeal to make sure we received every dime due to our resilient City. Our strong financial management allowed us to push forward with these important projects.”

“On the day after tornado, I pledged to seek the necessary federal funds to rebuild parts of Springfield that were devastated by the worst natural disaster in a generation. Nearly five years

after the storm, the city continues to receive assistance from FEMA to help continue the recovery process. Led by Mayor Sarno, the people of Springfield have displayed remarkable resilience since June 2011. And today's announcement is another reminder that when faced with great adversity, our community responded with compassion, perseverance and resolve," said **Congressman Richard E. Neal**.

The application to the PA was in effort to accelerate the rebuilding efforts and reestablish community services that were displaced due to the damage inflicted to the building. The total amount of \$18,144,661 million was determined as a settlement for repairs of the Armory building, and the \$13,806,495.75 represents FEMA's 75% reimbursement amount. The City will use the funding to cover costs associated with two improved projects approved by FEMA, the South End Community Center and the Senior Center.

Throughout this process, the City has worked closely with FEMA as this groundbreaking pilot program navigated through many federal reviews, one of which included an important partnership with State and City Historical Preservation that resulted in the City taking measures to preserve the rich history of the original Springfield Armory.

"This FEMA grant is great news for Springfield as the city continues to rebuild from the 2011 tornado," **Senator Elizabeth Warren** said. "FEMA disaster aid is a key part of how the federal government supports our cities and towns, and I'm glad to fight for this funding in Washington."

"It's been five years since Springfield suffered the devastation caused by the tornadoes in western Massachusetts, but the rebuilding continues. This FEMA funding for the Howard Street Armory building, the South End Community Center and the Senior Center will help ensure that important community services are reinitiated and that Springfield continues to rebuild stronger and better than ever. I commend Rep. Neal and Mayor Sarno for their leadership in securing this critical funding," stated **Senator Ed Markey**.

"This is great news. We appreciate the cash infusion of \$13.8M to help fund the ongoing capital projects due to the tornado. I would especially like to recognize Joshua Norman, President of Resilire, who guidance was critical to be successful in our appeals to FEMA for additional funds. The original project was estimated at \$4.5M, but through appeals we were able to agree with FEMA on \$18.1M. This is truly a testament to the resolve that the City has had during the recovery from the tornado," concluded **CAFO TJ Plante**.

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