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CITY OF STAMFORD LAUNCHES CORPORATE EMERGENCY ACCESS PROGRAM (CEAS)

Program will help business recover from emergencies

Thursday, June 2, 2005 — The City of Stamford, in partnership with The Business Council of Fairfield County (SACIA) and The Business Network of Emergency Resources, today announced the citywide launch of the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS). In the event of a large-scale emergency, CEAS provides companies quick authorized access to their affected worksites, minimizing economic injury to their business.

"To maintain Stamford's position as a key business center, we must put in place programs like CEAS so that business can start their recovery activities as soon as possible," said Dannel P. Malloy, Mayor, City of Stamford. "The CEAS program will make it easier for businesses to recover in the unfortunate event of an emergency or disaster. It also improves the City's ability to more quickly recognize the legitimacy of employees trying to gain access to a restricted area. It is a win-win for everyone."

The CEAS system provides designated employees a standardized credential that is recognized by law enforcement. Companies are allocated credentials based on a percentage of the total number of employees, with only critical staff receiving access.

"The best response to any emergency is getting the City back on its feet as quickly as possible," said Police Chief Larrabee. "With this system police can quickly identify designated employees and allow them access to their place of business."

Once the threat of danger is removed, companies will need access to their facilities to begin recovery activities. Whether they need to implement shut-down procedures, maintain core IT systems, or secure critical records and data, business has to be able to immediately assess their operations in the aftermath of an emergency.

"The City of Stamford has taken the lead by recognizing the needs of both its citizens and its businesses in the event of an emergency," said Christopher Bruhl, The Business Council's President & CEO. "With more than 81,000 people working in the city, the coordination between the public and private sector is critical for business continuity."

"This is a great tool for business and a great example of how government and the private sector work together to keep our City prepared," said William Callion, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare. "In collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management and the Stamford Police, we'll provide greater assurances to the wide array of businesses that are the foundation of the City's economy."

The Corporate Emergency Access System is currently in use in New York City, Boston and Buffalo, New York. Many of the businesses in Stamford have operations in New York and Boston, making CEAS a logical choice. From July to September 2005, BNet and the City plan to pilot CEAS with at least 10 companies. A full-scale implementation program citywide will follow the pilot program.

"This is a tremendous initiative for the people of Stamford and for businesses large and small," said Dr. Robert Leviton, President of the Business Network of Emergency Resources (BNet). "It's vital that all businesses are able to recover following a major disaster to help communities get back to work. This program will play a big part in those recovery efforts."

BNet, a New York-based not-for-profit corporation, will manage CEAS. Member companies cover the program's administrative costs with no financial cost to the City. Small, medium and large companies are all invited to enroll.

For more information about the CEAS program, visit www.ceas.com.

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