

2016 Annual Report of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council

A Report to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly



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I. Purpose, Mission, and Scope of Work

The Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) is authorized by statute and is charged with advising the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management in Maryland.¹ In addition, Executive Order 01.01.1987.11 designates the GEMAC as Maryland's State Emergency Response Commission² (SERC) in accordance with Title III of the Federal Superfund Amendments.

A primary focus of the State's overarching emergency management strategy is a whole-community approach, working not only with government stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels, but also with non-governmental organizations, private sector partners, communities, and individuals throughout the emergency management system. In keeping with this whole-community approach, the GEMAC brings together subject matter experts from a wide range of disciplines, backgrounds, and geographic areas to discuss and develop specific recommendations for further study or investigation. As an independent advisory body, GEMAC members are given the opportunity to provide input and comment to the State's activities in moving Maryland forward and developing a comprehensive emergency management program.

II. Chairman and Membership

By law, the GEMAC must include: fair and reasonable representation for local government; representation for organizations that represent volunteer firefighters and rescue squads; and representation from manufacturing, utilities, and communications industries. There is no size limit or minimum membership requirement for the GEMAC; individuals appointed to the GEMAC serve two year terms.

The Chairman of the GEMAC is Clay B. Stamp, Assistant County Manager and Director of Emergency Services in Talbot County, and a Senior Adviser to the Governor. The current GEMAC is composed of 15 members, including the Chairman. The terms of the current GEMAC members began January 2016.

¹ Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, §§ 14-105 (a) and (d)

² Code of Maryland Regulations 01.01.1987.11

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL	
Name	Title
Clay Stamp (Chairman)	Assistant County Manager/Director of Emergency Services, Talbot County
John Allen, Jr.	Vice President, Delmarva Power
Mike Berna	Maryland Fire Chiefs Association
Becky Brashear	Assistant General Manager, Maryland State Fair
John Butler	Fire Chief, Howard County
Timothy Cameron	Sheriff, St. Mary's County
Richard DeVore, Jr.	Maryland State Firemen's Association
Jonathan Favorite	Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc.
Ronald Gill	Director of Emergency Management/Deputy Director of Homeland Security, Prince George's County
Joseph LaFleur	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation
Jennifer Martin	Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Baltimore City Health Department
Thomas Moran	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium
Howard Safir	Chairman and CEO, Vigilant Resources International
Stephen Wantz	Commissioner, Carroll County
David Willenborg	Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense/NAVAIR

III. Activities and Topics During 2016

A. February 10, 2016 Quarterly Meeting

The draft charter for the GEMAC was reviewed and discussed by the members, as well as the role of the GEMAC in acting as the State Emergency Response Commission. The federal mandates requiring that each state have a SERC and the state Executive Order establishing the GEMAC as the SERC were noted. Because the Maryland Department of the Environment already carries out many of the duties of the SERC, the recommendations were made to consider whether the SERC should remain under the GEMAC in the long-term and to review the administration of SERCs in other states. The recommendation was made that a SERC subcommittee be formed, to be chaired by a member of the GEMAC and composed of additional members with subject matter expertise from outside the GEMAC (and open to any other GEMAC members interested in joining). The GEMAC as a whole would review and approve the activities of the SERC subcommittee.

The Council discussed and offered observations regarding the Baltimore City Demonstrations After Action Report and the State's response during the January 2016 snowstorm. Director Strickland of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) also provided the Council with an overview of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's proposal to implement a deductible program for federally declared disasters and asked the Council to provide input on whether the deductible is a reasonable idea, how it could be managed, and any other specific suggestions to help inform the State's position.

B. May 11, 2016 Quarterly Meeting

The Council voted to adopt the draft charter for the GEMAC, which was reviewed at the last meeting. The Council voted to establish a State Emergency Response Commission subcommittee and approved the Chairman's appointment of Ronald Gill (Chair), Geoffrey Donahue (Vice Chair), John Bentley, Richard Brooks, Rick Butler, John (Jack) Markey, and Chris Thompson to serve on the SERC subcommittee. Following the establishment of the SERC subcommittee, the Council reviewed and voted to adopt the recommendations of the subcommittee on the distribution of the Federal Fiscal Year 16-17 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant funds.

The Chairman initiated discussion about the GEMAC conducting a review and providing recommendations on the organizational placement of MEMA in state government for optimal efficiency and effectiveness. The Chairman shared his observations noting the natural evolution of state emergency management agencies across the country in response to disasters over the past decade. Following a presentation outlining emergency management and homeland security organizational models and trends reported by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) related to recent changes across the United States, the suggestion was made that the GEMAC provide recommendations to the Governor on organization, and that a subcommittee be formed to focus on the developing the recommendations. Howard Safir, Tom Moran, Tim Cameron, Joe LaFleur, and Mike Berna agreed to be on the subcommittee. Following the meeting the Chairman provided the Council with a formal charge outlining the purpose of the recommendations.

C. August 3, 2016 Quarterly Meeting

Chief Butler provided an update regarding the ongoing response and recovery efforts to the Ellicott City flooding, followed by brief remarks from the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff, Roy McGrath, on the response of the Governor and the State to the situation.

The subcommittee assigned to work on the future of emergency management organization recommendations provided the Council with an overview and update on their progress. The subcommittee outlined their information-gathering process and summarized the overall purpose of the recommendations, noting that they had reviewed the history, legal authorities, administration, mission, and alignment of the current emergency management and homeland security functions of state government in Maryland; examined national organizational trends; and gathered considerations specific to the state of Maryland from GEMAC and other subject matter experts, and through interviews conducted by the subcommittee. A draft was provided to the meeting attendees for discussion and feedback. Based on the input of the full Council, edits to the draft were identified and it was decided that the subcommittee would make the identified changes and send out a revised draft to the full Council, along with background materials used in the drafting of the recommendations. The Council agreed to hold an additional meeting to further discuss the draft following the revisions.

SERC Subcommittee Actions

Ronnie Gill, Chair of the SERC subcommittee, informed the Council that the SERC subcommittee had voted to approve the recommendations from the Talbot County Council for reappointments to the Talbot County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

The full Council voted to confirm the SERC subcommittee's approval of the reappointment recommendations.

D. August 12, 2016 Meeting

The Council reviewed the revised draft of the recommendations on emergency management organization and reached a consensus on several recommendations and considerations to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in providing for the safety and security of the state and its citizens. In developing its recommendations, the GEMAC focused on identifying organizational and structural enhancements that would support and promote further unification, communication, and coordination between the state enterprise, local government, federal counterparts, the private sector, and other partners. The Council submitted the recommendations to the Governor's Office at the end of August.

E. October 26, 2016 Quarterly Meeting

The Chairman thanked the Council for their work in developing the recommendations and confirmed that they had been delivered to the Governor's Chief of Staff. In regard to the

recommendation to co-locate the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) operated by the State Police at a leased facility and the Maryland Joint Operations Center (MJOC) at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Director Strickland noted that any additional facility expansion necessary to accommodate the co-location should be added in to the scope of MEMA's capital renovation project by March 2017. The Council affirmed its support for this re-location alignment and their support for MEMA and the State Police to obtain the proper space allocations to accommodate the operational needs of the co-location. The Council is prepared to testify for their re-location recommendation and the need for the operational space.

Director Strickland provided the Council with an overview of the vision for emergency management in Maryland moving forward, and asked that the Council provide their input/feedback on developing a comprehensive emergency management program with a focus on consequence management and risk reduction.

Jack Markey, Director of Emergency Management for Frederick County, provided the Council with an overview of the anticipated transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911). Mr. Markey described the new technical and operational challenges in Maryland for NG911 and requested input on ways that the GEMAC could encourage state government to help the 9-1-1 Emergency Number Systems Board.

SERC Subcommittee Actions

Ronnie Gill, Chair of the SERC subcommittee, informed the Council that the SERC subcommittee had voted to approve additional recommendations from the Talbot County Council for reappointments to the Talbot County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

The full Council voted to confirm the SERC subcommittee's approval of the reappointment recommendations.

IV. Prospective Outlook for 2017

A. Overview

In the coming year the GEMAC intends to work with Director Strickland and his leadership team to assist in identifying strategies to enhance existing capabilities and develop a comprehensive statewide emergency management program centered on Preparedness; prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery in partnership with the federal government, local jurisdictions and the private sector. The GEMAC will also engage with the Emergency Number Systems Board on issues related to emergency management and the NG911 implementation issues.

B. Upcoming Meetings

The GEMAC meets on a quarterly basis, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. Anticipated quarterly meeting dates for 2017 are as follows:

January 2017

May 2017

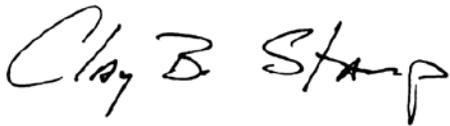
August 2017

November 2017

V. Conclusion

The GEMAC hereby submits this report along with its wishes of sincere appreciation from the individual members of the Council for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of December, 2016:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay B Stamp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "S".

Clay B. Stamp, Chairman

Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council