

CY2022 Annual Report of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council

A Report to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly

In compliance with Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, §§ 14-105 (e) amended by HB 990, Ch. 287, 2021 and SB 658, Ch. 288, 2021



Submitted by the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM)



Larry Hogan | Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford | Lt. Governor

Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

December 01, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. "Bill" Ferguson IV
President
Senate of Maryland
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: 2022 Annual Report of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council,
Public Safety Article § 14-105(e), (MSAR # 13839)**

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

On behalf of Chairman Ronald "Ronnie" Gill Jr. and in compliance with Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, § 14-105 (e), we are pleased to submit the 2022 Annual Report of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council to the General Assembly. This report provides information on the Council's activities over the 2022 calendar year and the future direction for 2023.

MDEM has the time-honored tradition of providing staff support to the Council. As such, should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to send inquiries to russell.strickland@maryland.gov or regill@co.pg.md.us.

Sincerely,

Russell Strickland

Secretary

Maryland Department of Emergency Management

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

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I. Executive Summary

In accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article, § 14-105 (a) and (d), the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) is authorized to advise the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management in Maryland. During the 2022 calendar year (CY22), the GEMAC heavily advised the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) across its operations as the legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2021 began to manifest itself operationally within the new Department.¹

The GEMAC continues to focus on and leverage its Legislative Affairs (LA) Subcommittee to diligently track and analyze proposed legislation up to *sine die* of the General Assembly 2023 Session. The GEMAC achieved a level of coordination with other similar legislative committees across the state (e.g., MDEMA and MACo committees) to maximize level of effort and achieve, as much as is possible, synergy between legislative priorities.

The GEMAC's work to investigate the efficacy of the creation of a disaster assistance fund² proved to bear fruit as the General Assembly invested in a summer study on the topic, pulling subject matter experts from across the state to develop the framework for such a fund. These meetings continue to occur and hold promise that this type of fund will be developed in the near future.

As previously noted, the GEMAC chose to invest its time this year in closely monitoring and advising MDEM on its current operations. Of the meetings that were held in CY22, every meeting included a full debrief from the MDEM Senior Leadership team focusing on the most important initiatives within each functional business unit within the organization. This proved to be a valuable use of time, as the GEMAC was empowered to ask penetrating questions and provide subject matter expertise, from a variety of perspectives, to ensure MDEM continues to develop comprehensive solutions to novel problems.

The GEMAC continues to ensure it remains abreast of its other statutorily mandated duties (i.e., management of the State Emergency Response Commission [SERC]). Every meeting the GEMAC SERC Subcommittee Chair guides the Council through an adjudication of old and new business, as necessary.

Supported by the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), the GEMAC continues to provide value to the Maryland State Executive Branch, and the citizens of Maryland, by offering an independent, non-partisan, and holistic perspective for a wide array of emergency management topics. As always, the GEMAC strives to remain agile and relevant in the emergency management discipline and continues to actively serve the Governor, his office, and his designated homeland security/emergency management representatives in an advisory capacity.

¹ As noted in the 2021 Annual Report, the emergency management legislation passed by the General Assembly during the 2021 Session has been perceived by the GEMAC as some of the most influential in Maryland history.

² The GEMAC advocated and wrote memorandums to the Governor during CY20 and CY21 regarding the creation of such a fund, to be managed by the State, to act as a financial "stop-gap" for Maryland local and State entities when disasters do not meet federal dollar thresholds.

II. Purpose, Mission, and Scope of Work

The GEMAC is authorized by statute and is charged with advising the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management in Maryland.³ In addition, Executive Order 01.01.1987.11 designates the GEMAC as Maryland's State Emergency Response Commission⁴ (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 on the State's activities in moving Maryland forward and developing a comprehensive emergency management program.

III. Representation

By law, the GEMAC must include: fair and reasonable representation from local government; representation from 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 Ronald Gill, Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Prince George's County. The current GEMAC is composed of 23 members, including the Chairman. Current GEMAC members began their terms in January 2020 with a two-year term commitment. Terms were renewed as of January 2022 with an additional two-year commitment. As such, GEMAC membership is scheduled to rotate no later than January 2024. For more information regarding membership, see the membership roster on page 5.

³ Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, §§ 14-105 (a) and (d)

⁴ Code of Maryland Regulations 01.01.1987.11

Membership Roster

| Name | Position Title | Designation |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Adrian Grieve | Division Disaster State Relations Director (PA, MD, DE, DC & FEMA RIII), American Red Cross | Member |
| Bruce Wahl | Former Mayor of Chesapeake Beach | Member |
| Clay Stamp | County Manager, Talbot County | Member |
| David Willenborg | Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense, NAVAIR | Member |
| Douglas Brown | Deputy Director, Carroll County Department of Public Works | Member |
| Dwayne Freeman | Director of High Homeland Security, Washington County Public Schools | Member |
| Earl "Buddy" Hance | Commissioner, Calvert County | Member |
| Jasper Jones | Budget Analyst, U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) | Member |
| Jennifer Martin | Deputy Commissioner, Population Health and Disease Prevention, Baltimore City Health Department | Member |
| Jonathan Bratt | Executive Director, UMB Office of Emergency Management | Member |
| Jonathan Dayton | Maryland State Firemen's Association | Member |
| Jonathan Favorite | Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc. | Member |
| Joseph LaFleur | Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation | Member |
| Kevin Simmons | Director, Office of Emergency Management, City of Annapolis | Member |
| Mike Berna | Fire Chief, Maryland Fire Chief's Association | Member |
| Robert Poole | Retired Special Agent, ATF; ODNI, Insider Threat SME | Member |
| Ronald "Ronnie" Gill | Director, Office of Homeland Security and Office of Emergency Management, Prince George's County | Chairperson |
| Ryan Miller | Principal, Critical Functions, LLC | Member |
| Stephen Wantz | Commissioner, Carroll County | Member |
| Thomas Moran | Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium | Member |
| Tiffany Green | Fire Chief, Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department | Member |
| Timothy Cameron | Sheriff, St. Mary's County | Member |
| Marverly Nettles | Exercise Planner, Government Consulting Firm | Member |
| Adrian Grieve | Division Disaster State Relations Director (PA, MD, DE, DC & FEMA RIII), American Red Cross | Member |
| Ex-Officio & Support Staff | | |
| MG Timothy Gowen | The Adjutant General | Ex-officio |
| Walter Landon | Deputy Chief of Staff; Director, Maryland Governor's Office of Homeland Security | Ex-officio |
| Russell Strickland | Secretary, MDEM | Ex-officio |
| Terry Thompson | Executive Liaison, MDEM | Ex-officio |
| Chas Eby | Deputy Executive Director, MDEM | Ex-officio |
| BG Adam Flasch | Director, Joint Staff, Maryland National Guard | Ex-officio |
| Anna Sierra | Chief Development Officer, MDEM | Ex-officio |
| Vacant | Assistant to the MDEM Secretary | Staff Support |
| Blake Langford | Maryland State National Capital Region Program Manager, MDEM | Staff Support |

IV. Activities and Topics During 2022

August 05, 2022 Meeting

During this meeting, the GEMAC received briefings from the MDEM Senior Leadership team on the most important operational initiatives occurring throughout the organization from January to July 2022.

Within the Consequence Management (CM) Directorate the following was reported:

- Heavy investment in Continuity of Operations (COOP)
 - Reviewing all COOP Plans for Principal Departments of Executive Branch of State Government
- Heavy investments in planning, training, and exercises with a focus on terrorism prevention, including:
 - Cyber Exercise for the Governor's Cabinet
 - Ongoing updates to the Consequence Management Operations Plan (CMOP)
- Ongoing and current response operations for Monkeypox, COVID, Hurricanes, and Tropical Storms
- Heavy investment in cyber preparedness activities in coordination with the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT), including:
 - Upstaffing the MDEM Cyber Preparedness Unit
 - Developing Reporting Structures between MDEM and DoIT

Within the Disaster and Risk Reduction (DRR) Directorate, the following activities were reported:

- Progress made on setting up the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund
 - Program Manager hired in May and developing SOPs and marketing strategy
 - Developing financial structure
 - Continue to await federal STORM Act guidance to guide implementation
- Progress in developing Office of Resilience
 - Developing structure of Office
 - Currently identifying and coordination with existing resilience key players, data, workgroups, funding sources, and other related initiatives

Within the Mission Support (DRR) Directorate, the following activities were reported:

- Dramatic increase in subrecipients for the Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP)
- MDEM Headquarters Capital Improvement Project Ongoing

SERC business was adjudicated.

- Frederick County recommendations regarding the revision to certain members of their Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) were approved by the GEMAC.
- Quick discussion regarding the number of chemical facility plans current in Maryland.
 - SERC Subcommittee Chair to follow up at a later date.

Legislative Affairs Subcommittee Chair shared high-level updates on coordination between GEMAC and other similar legislative committees. The Chair reported that it is anticipated that emergency management legislation,

at a state level, will likely be slower this year; however, the Council is using this time to regroup and develop strategic next steps to maximize opportunities with the upcoming, new administration.

The MDEM Chief Development Officer (CDO) followed up on this discussion by providing possible legislative ideas MDEM is exploring as well as a quick update on the progress of the summer study to investigate the efficacy of the creation of a state-managed disaster assistance fund when damages do not meet federal dollar threshold requirements. The MDEM CDO also mentioned the impressive and fruitful efforts surrounding the Food System Resiliency Council (FSRC), the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis (THIRA) initiative, and the desire to develop a coordinated approach to resilience guided by a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO).

November 21, 2022 Meeting

During this meeting, the GEMAC received a similar briefing from the MDEM Senior Leadership team on the most important operational initiatives occurring throughout the organization during the last quarter of 2022. Within the Consequence Management (CM) Directorate the following was reported:

- Heavy investment in Continuity of Operations (COOP)
 - Completed Review of Principal Departments of Executive Branch of State Government COOP Plans
 - Developing Framework for Continuity of Government (COG) Program
 - Initiation of Exploratory Actions for Enduring Constitutional Government (ECG) Plan
 - Continue to secure COOP sites for MDEM
- Heavy investment in cyber preparedness activities in coordination with the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT), including:
 - State of Maryland applied for a federal cybersecurity grant
 - Continued upstaffing the MDEM Cyber Preparedness Unit
 - Hired the Cyber Preparedness Unit Supervisor
 - Guidance Developed for Local Jurisdictions Reporting Cyber Events
- Heavy investments in planning, training, and exercises with a focus on terrorism prevention, including:
 - Election Security Preparedness and Response Activities
 - Gubernatorial Event(s) Preparedness and Response Activities
 - Coordination with National Capital Region Partners for the African Leader Summit
 - Updated Consequence Management Operations Plan (CMOP)
 - Completion of BWI FAA 3-year Exercise
 - Completion of 2022 CALVEX Radiological/Nuclear Exercise
 - Technical Hazards Unit also ensured remaining in compliance with annual letters of certification and executing an additional ingestion pathway exercise
 - Grants to States for School Emergency Management (GSEM) program planning, training, and exercise support statewide
 - Working with surrounding states on mass evacuation planning and exercise
 - Administering and developing programmatic guidance for the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grant on behalf of the state

Within the Disaster and Risk Reduction (DRR) Directorate, the following activities were reported:

- Public Assistance program continues to work through the COVID disaster
- Continued investments in the Private Sector Integration Program (PSIP)
 - PSIP Summit scheduled for Spring 2023
- Continued investment and progress in the Mesonet program
- Continued investment and progress related to the Maryland Revolving Loan Fund
 - Maryland continues to await the federal STORM Act guidance to perfect this program
 - Finance structure of program established
 - Integration with other grant programs (e.g., mitigation) being mapped

Within the Mission Support (MS) Directorate, the following activities were reported:

- Heavy investment in improving project/program management, financial management, and grant management practices

In addition to this operational discussion, the GEMAC asked general questions of the MDEM Chief Development Officer (CDO) regarding the transition to a new administration. The CDO provided high-level comments on the process of transition as well as important dates in the upcoming General Assembly 2023 Session.

It was also noted that MDEM had recently hired a new Assistant Attorney General (AAG) as well as a Chief of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The GEMAC applauded these new investments.

There were no outstanding items from SERC or Legislative Affairs subcommittees.

V. Learning from the Past & Planning for the Future

Overview

The impacts of COVID-19 were still felt across the GEMAC this year. The meetings have continued to remain virtual, but members have expressed a desire to move back to in-person meetings for CY2023.⁵ Additionally, the transition of MDEM to a principal department of the executive branch of state government has, naturally, placed an increased demand for services and performance across the organization. Even so, MDEM has maintained a level of dedicated staff support to the GEMAC. Overall, the GEMAC continues to position itself and an effective advisory body to the Governor and MDEM.

The GEMAC will continue to mature its Legislative Affairs Subcommittee, to include refining timing and content of recommendations to the Governor's Office, commensurate with its current ability to produce such documents. The GEMAC will continue to provide all-hazards advice to the Governor, MDEM, and the Maryland emergency management discipline. The GEMAC anticipates near-future discussions to revolve around initiatives of critical importance such as: cyber preparedness and security, COOP, 911, terrorism, and resilience.

⁵ It has been noted that the switch to a virtual environment has dramatically increased attendance of the meetings. A hybrid option will be offered in CY2023.

Upcoming Meetings

The GEMAC traditionally meets on a quarterly basis, with meeting schedules tailored to fit current events. Anticipated quarterly meeting dates for 2023 are as follows:

- February 2023
- May 2023
- August 2023
- November 2023

VI. Conclusion

The GEMAC hereby submits this report along with its sincere appreciation, on behalf of the individual members of the Council, for the opportunity to serve the residents of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of December 2022:

Ronald Gill, Chairman

Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council