



NEWS from

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OHS LAUNCHES ONLINE SURVEY FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT PREPAREDNESS STUDY

*Tool Available on the Web for Public to Comment on Security Needs of Not-For-Profit
Institutions throughout New York State*

OHS to Conduct Public Meeting Seeking Input on December 15 in New York City

Thomas G. Donlon, Director of the New York State Office of Homeland Security (OHS), today announced the availability of an online survey tool which will allow the public to comment on the security needs, and risk of terrorist attack, of not-for-profit organizations in New York State.

“New York State is fortunate to be the home of thousands of not-for-profit institutions that enrich our lives and provide vital services to our residents. New York State is committed to working with our not-for-profit community to identify its security needs and developing solutions and strategies for improving security and protecting not-for-profit institutions facing an increased risk of terrorist attack,” Donlon said.

On August 11, 2009, Governor David A. Paterson signed legislation sponsored by Assembly Member Rory Lancman and Senator Toby Ann Stavisky commissioning OHS “to study, evaluate, and make recommendations in writing to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Assembly regarding the security needs of not-for-profit institutions facing an increased risk of terrorist attack, the universe of federal and state financial and non-financial resources available to assist those not-for-profit institutions in protecting their facilities and users of their services, and any other strategies for improving security and protecting not-for profit institutions facing an increased risk of terrorist attack.” The legislation also requires OHS to obtain public comment and submit its finding and recommendations on or before March 31, 2010.

In addition to announcing the online survey tool, the OHS Director said that OHS will conduct a public meeting on December 15 to discuss and explain the commencement of its study on the security needs of non-profit institutions in New York State facing an increased risk of terrorist attack. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. that Tuesday morning on the 38th floor at 633 Third Avenue in New York City.

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“This forum offers a unique opportunity for interested members of the public to learn about the legislative initiative, the online survey tool developed by OHS and how the public can provide input into this important project,” Donlon said.

Assemblyman Rory Lancman said, "New York State is home to thousands of non-profit cultural, religious and educational institutions which post-9/11 are at an increased risk of terrorist attack, and this legislation is aimed at assessing and strengthening their security. Step one in that process is completing this survey."

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky said, “Those who know best about the homeland security needs of the not-for-profit organizations are those who run the cultural, religious and educational institutions. We turn to these leaders and ask that they complete this security needs assessment survey.”

Not-for-profit institutions located in New York State are asked to consider participating in this study by completing OHS’ online Not-for-Profit Preparedness Study Survey that can be accessed at the OHS’ website: www.security.state.ny.us. By participating in the study, not-for-profit institutions may be able to provide OHS with valuable information to better understand the terrorist threat to these institutions and identify resources and strategies for improving security at their facilities.

Participants are asked to submit surveys by January 15, 2010.

For more information on this public meeting and to access OHS’ online survey tool please visit www.security.state.ny.us

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