

Philadelphia Alliance for Response Update
From Tom Claeson 10/3/08

The Philadelphia Alliance for Response group met in the beautiful and historic Philadelphia City Hall building on September 19 to review their first year of activities, plan future initiatives, and hear updates on a variety of ongoing projects.

Thomas Mills, Assistant Archivist for Regional Records Services from the National Archives and Records Administration, began the meeting by discussing national and regional disaster recovery efforts from NARA. He also presented representatives of Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter with a plaque to recognize the support of the City, especially Commissioner of Records Joan Decker and Deputy Managing Director for Emergency Management MaryAnn Marrocolo, in development of the Philadelphia Alliance initiative. NARA External Coordinator for Disaster Recovery and Response Howard Lowell presented his views on national response capabilities "Three Years After Katrina."

Other program highlights included what some attendees called "the clearest presentation ever on Continuity of Operations" by FEMA Region III National Continuity Program Manager Michael Hajdak, and an update from MaryAnn Marrocolo on the many links she is developing from the City's Office of Emergency Management to the cultural heritage community, including the Ready Philadelphia incident notification system, citywide evacuation plans, and Emergency Operations Center representation for cultural institutions.

The Philadelphia Group is also in early stages of planning for shared disaster supply caches around the metropolitan area.