



**For Immediate Release**  
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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES \$65,000 FOR  
PORT RICHMOND CERT AND RESCUE TO ESTABLISH A RESILIENT  
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK ACROSS STATEN ISLAND**

*Developed through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program Staten Island Committee, the project aims to promote a system of more reliable communications following lapses during Superstorm Sandy.*

New York, NY (June 16, 2015)– The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced its entry into a new partnership with Port Richmond Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Rescue, Inc., in an effort to establish a more reliable and resilient communications network across Staten Island.

The \$65,000 undertaking, which will be funded by GOSR, was developed by the Staten Island Committee of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program. Once complete, the project will ensure comprehensive radio coverage around the borough, featuring a ring of radio receptors and base stations.

“As we continue to apply lessons learned from recent storms, we know now– more than ever– the need for a dependable and robust system of communications,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Jamie Rubin. “In the days following Sandy, Port Richmond CERT demonstrated tremendous leadership and ability in its response to the storm. We are confident that this experience, paired with the organization's high level of expertise, make it uniquely qualified to execute this essential project.”

Immediately after Sandy made landfall, Port Richmond CERT provided critical rescue and recovery support along the South and East Shores of Staten Island. The team also helped to direct traffic, search for survivors and secure homes, and coordinate with the offices of elected officials, first responders and other non-profit groups.

At the time, communications on Staten Island were hampered due to severe power loss, damaged cell towers and inadequate radio coverage throughout the borough. In light of these problems, the new project would aim to secure two frequencies that would run exclusively on the network, and would support base stations and repeaters with sources of backup power.

On Wednesday, May 20, GOSR accepted Port Richmond CERT's grant application. The Staten Island-based non-profit is currently developing the Request for Proposal (RFP) to procure study and construction services.

Moving forward, the scope of work includes two key phases: Phase 1, involving the analysis and design of the featured communications improvements, and Phase 2, which will involve the purchase and installation of necessary communications infrastructure.

As part of its research, Port Richmond CERT will analyze a suite of new and existing locations and select those that best allow for maximum coverage with reduced costs. Results will be compiled into an application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to secure the two desired radio frequencies.

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in April 2013, the NYRCR Program seeks to empower storm-impacted communities throughout the State, helping them to build back better and stronger than before. Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR Committees, which have collectively proposed approximately 700 locally-driven projects. Throughout the eight-month planning process, the program has held more than 650 Planning Committee meetings and more than 250 large scale Public Engagement Events. Funding for both planning and project implementation comes from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)'s Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NYRCR Program– as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business and Infrastructure programs– GOSR invests \$4.4 billion made available through HUD's CDBG-DR Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events.

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