



Board of County Commissioners

County of Hunterdon
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner Director Tours Four Municipalities Affected By Storm Ida On Year Anniversary

Discusses Long-Term Recovery And Emergency Preparedness With Local Leaders

As Hunterdon County recently marked the one-year anniversary of Tropical Storm Ida, the County's Board of Commissioners Director John E. Lanza reported, at the September 20th Board meeting, that he was joined by Deputy Director Zach Rich, Commissioner Jeff Kuhl, Sheriff Fred Brown, several County Department leaders, and numerous local officials, on a revisit to four municipalities in the County hardest hit by last year's deadly storm, observing improvements, repairs and work still to be done.

Director Lanza's tour included stops in Raritan, Delaware, and East Amwell Townships, along with the City of Lambertville. Mr. Lanza was also joined on by Hunterdon County Engineer Tom Mathews, Public Safety Director Brayden Fahey who have been directly involved in the County's ongoing Ida recovery.

Along the way, local officials joined Mr. Lanza on his storm recovery tour including Raritan Township Mayor Scott MacDade and Committeeman Bob King. In Delaware Township, Mayor James Waltman joined County officials to survey damage repairs throughout the Township.

In East Amwell, Mayor Mark Castellano and his wife, Alison took Director Lanza to see a neighborhood that was particularly hard hit which included with a resident who had to be rescued from her home with her husband by boat.

Lambertville Mayor Andrew Nowick and local Police Lieutenant Bob Brown showed Mr. Lanza several infrastructure projects that are either underway or in the works as the city continues its long-term recovery from Ida. Lambertville was especially hard hit and numerous residents continue to be permanently displaced from their residences as a result of their homes being total losses.

Mr. Lanza noted at the meeting, "The amount of damage caused by Ida cannot be overstated. From lost lives, displaced residents, shuttered businesses, to the millions of dollars in infrastructure damage, the storm was



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truly unprecedented. I was recently advised by Public Safety Director Brayden Fahey, that the County has sought more than \$6 million in reimbursements as the rebuild from Ida continues.”

Mr. Lanza went on to note, “I, along with my colleagues on this Board, remain committed to seeing the Ida recovery to fruition. The residents of Hunterdon County can truly be proud of the work of its county workforce that has been involved in both the storm response and recovery.”

In the immediate aftermath of Ida, Hunterdon County offered a wide array of resources to the impacted jurisdictions including but not limited to temporary shelter, food, cleaning supplies, Sheriff’s Department support to impacted communities, and large-scale debris and hazardous materials removal.

Public Safety Director Brayden Fahey noted, “Each year the County seeks to identify opportunities to work directly with our residents on their personal resilience and preparedness for future events through hazard mitigation actions. Residents who have been victims of repetitive flooding should contact the Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management if they are interested in having their homes acquired, elevated, or to discuss other programs that can be taken to lessen the impacts of disasters.”

Mr. Fahey also added, “Eligibility for most programs requires owners to have a current National Flood Insurance Program policy, but that isn’t always the case, and all residents are welcome to consult our staff for guidance.” The Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management can be reached at 908-788-1196.

Commissioner Director John Lanza also noted that additional work and coordination with the State of New Jersey is needed stating, “One of the common themes that I heard throughout my tour, is that additional work is needed to clean out waterways that continue to be littered with debris from the storm. This is especially important in the City of Lambertville, where the Swan Creek has large debris piles that need to be addressed.” Mr. Lanza noted that he intends to send a letter to the NJDEP Commissioner seeking their assistance.