



MICHAEL S. YENNI

Mayor

CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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KENNER GETS \$370,000 GRANT TO WIND-PROOF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS BUILDING

Kenner, LA. – Kenner has been awarded a grant of more than \$370,000 from the state to install storm shutters and to take other protective measures at the city’s Emergency Operations Center on Reverend Richard Wilson Drive in south Kenner.

The city’s EOC is located in the Public Works building at 1610 Rev. Richard Wilson Drive. Mayor Michael Yenni and members of his staff were informed that the city will be awarded the grant earlier this week at a meeting with officials from the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). Federal funds pay for 75 percent of the grant and Kenner will contribute 25 percent.

“The construction of a facility that allows city employees to safely and efficiently conduct emergency operations has been a top priority of my administration,” Yenni said. “Building on our professional working relationship with GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis, and working closely with his staff, we were able to acquire federal funding to add significant wind-proofing protection to the building that serves as our emergency operations center.”

The effort to secure the grant has taken more than a year, Yenni said, adding that he has already been able to put aside the 25 percent match. The portion from the federal government is \$278,456.

Yenni said emergency operations has been one of his top priorities since his election in 2010. The first step was to name Doug Dodt, a police lieutenant, as the city’s first-ever Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. The second step was to create an emergency operations center, which proved invaluable during Hurricane Isaac in 2012, with sleeping quarters for city workers and a communications outpost for Yenni and other top city officials.

“Of course, safety is a primary consideration,” Yenni said. “But businesses want to know the city in which they are located has a plan to get the power on and have drainage operational as soon as possible after an emergency such as a hurricane.”

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