June 7, 2012
For Immediate Release

On May 22, 2012, Kenner’s Office of Emergency Management held its annual Hurricane Season Preparedness meeting at Kenner Police Headquarters. These meetings have been conducted by the City since 2009. The purpose of the session is to bring together local partner agencies and organizations that provide services to or that work collaboratively with the City of Kenner in the event of a major storm. Participants review agency-specific plans, identify resources and capabilities, discuss strategy, and address issues of mutual concern, such as Contraflow, sheltering and relief operations. The meeting facilitates close coordination not only amongst municipal agencies, but between area governmental and non-governmental entities during a disaster.

Mayor Michael Yenni and Chief Administrative Officer Michael Quigley addressed the group, outlining the City’s unified approach to incident management and describing coordination of municipal services.

The meeting was attended by over 50 representatives from many of Kenner’s response partners, including: FEMA, Louisiana State Police, Jefferson Parish Emergency Management, East Jefferson Levee District, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Corps of Engineers, New Orleans Aviation Board, and the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission / Causeway Police. Utility companies represented included: Entergy, Veolia Wastewater, and AT&T. Vineyard Church and the American Red Cross provided detailed information on support available from non-governmental organizations. Representatives from the Pontchartrain Center management staff were also on hand to discuss that facility’s usefulness for disaster recovery operations. Kenner’s Police and Fire departments each presented detailed briefings on “first responder” operations and capabilities.
Kenner Fire Captain John Tetlow discusses specialized activities the agency will take in the event of a major storm.

Detective Sergeant Mike Glaser, Kenner Police Planning Officer, provides a brief on law enforcement command post and specialized field operations during a severe weather event.

Ochsner Hospital and East Jefferson General Hospital EMS discussed medical response. Representatives from a host of City agencies, including Legal, Finance, Public Works, K-TV, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Purchasing, Sewerage, Inspection and Code Enforcement, and Fleet Management participated in the meeting.

As we enter the hurricane season, City of Kenner officials and employees stand prepared to respond to storm events. Year-round planning, training and coordination sessions ensure that all of Kenner’s agencies are capable of responding in a coordinated and unified fashion to meet the needs of our community.

UNITED IN PURPOSE ... COMMITTED TO TEAM WORK