

Climate Ready Boston Update – October 2013

Last February 2013, a few months after Superstorm Sandy, Mayor Menino announced a new set of preparedness initiatives under the name of *Climate Ready Boston*. Over the past nine months, the Menino administration has made great progress including:

- The administration's Climate Preparedness Task Force convened and delivered its report, *Climate Ready Boston: Municipal Vulnerability to Climate Change*, which identifies municipal vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change and next steps to address them.
- The BRA has begun surveying new development projects undergoing Article 80 review to learn of current and emerging strategies and practices that prepare buildings for future climate conditions and enhance building and City resiliency. This summer, the BRA began surveying institutions and existing building owners across the city in order to better understand the current state of preparedness.
- Later today, the BRA will be holding a public meeting on new Zoning Article 80 Project Review guidelines to ensure basic building preparedness and resiliency practices are included in planning, design, and construction of new projects in Boston.
- After four public listening sessions and additional stakeholder meetings, the Boston Conservation Commission developed, and submitted to the Mayor, guiding principles for a new local wetlands ordinance. The Environment Department is currently drafting the ordinance based on these guiding principles and engaging with stakeholders for additional input.
- Inspectional Services Department (ISD) and Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) have been reviewing their outreach and enforcement for flood proofing. Working with the Office of Emergency Management and others, they developed flood protection information for homeowners and leveraged National Preparedness Month in September, to deliver it to Bostonians through social media, a Twitter Chat, community events, and give-a-ways.

In his February announcement, Mayor Menino also asked the Boston Green Ribbon Commission (GRC), a group of business and institutional leaders supporting climate action, to identify climate preparedness actions that institutions and property owners can take now and steps that the City of Boston can take to support them. As part of the response to this request, the GRC convened a working group and commissioned the report *Building Resilience in Boston*, released by the Boston Society of Architects in August.

All of these efforts will contribute to advancing climate preparedness policies in the 2014 update of the Boston climate action plan.