

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION COORDINATION
REORGANIZATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, COG, its members, state and local governments, and regional partners, including the Greater Washington Board of Trade, strongly advocated for a high level federal office located in the National Capital Region (NCR), whose mission was entirely focused on oversight and coordination of the 270 federal agencies and associated homeland security programs and relationships with state, local, and regional authorities in the NCR; and

WHEREAS, the Office of National Capital Region Coordination (ONCRC) was subsequently established under Section 882 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which created the Department of Homeland Security, and ONCRC began operations in March, 2003; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, as a result of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, ONCRC was transitioned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, ONCRC has seven statutory responsibilities focused on preparedness, planning, training, information sharing, and active communication and coordination between and among the federal government and state, local, regional agencies, and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the Director and staff of the ONCRC are formal partners in all aspects of the region's homeland security management structure, specifically including membership on COG's National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC); and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the United States Government Accountability Office conducted a detailed performance audit of homeland security programs for the NCR which included an evaluation of the performance of ONCRC, as well as recommendations for enhancement of the office; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board of Directors, in recognition of the critical role of ONCRC to the NCR and in response to proposed federal funding reductions and potential organizational changes of that office within FEMA, strongly advocated for full funding for the office in the FY 2013 federal appropriation, and conducting the statutory mission of office at the highest levels within the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to enactment of FY 2013 federal appropriation, a reorganization plan for ONCRC was proposed that included the ONCRC Director reporting to the FEMA Region III Administrator in Philadelphia, as well as relocation of critical ONCRC functions to FEMA Region III; and

WHEREAS, as a result of widespread concerns with the reorganization proposal, the FY 2014 federal appropriation for ONCRC included a requirement for development of a new realignment plan with stakeholder concurrence that insures that ONCRC carries out its "mission and unique statutory

responsibilities” on behalf of the NCR, with a report due from the FEMA to Congress by April, 2014, containing such realignment plan; and

WHEREAS, the Acting Director of the ONCRC has proposed a new organization plan after conducting a thorough assessment of the office, its mission and functions, as well as the necessary staffing and organizational structure to meet its responsibilities, and this assessment has included substantial engagement of public and private sector stakeholders in the NCR; and

WHEREAS, the NCR EPC, CAO Homeland Security Executive Committee, COG Emergency Managers’ Committee, and District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia homeland security advisors support the ONCRC reorganization plan as proposed by the Acting ONCRC Director, because the plan will retain the office within the NCR and report directly to the FEMA Administrator; ONCRC is to be organized and staffed to effectively carry out its seven statutory responsibilities; and the plan includes ONCRC having direct access to the resources of FEMA and the federal government necessary to support effective response to emergencies affecting the NCR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. COG endorses the proposed reorganization plan for the Office of National Capital Region Coordination (ONCRC).
2. The Chairman of the Board shall transmit a letter and this resolution conveying COG’s endorsement to the appropriate Congressional homeland security committees; to the regional Congressional delegation; as well as to the FEMA Administrator and Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.
3. The NCR EPC and supporting and affiliated regional homeland security and emergency management committees are urged to actively engage with the ONCRC Acting Director and staff to facilitate timely and effective implementation of the reorganization plan.
4. Progress reports on the status of implementation of the ONCRC reorganization plan, as well as its activities, shall be made to the Board on a periodic basis.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was approved and adopted by the COG Board of Directors at its regular meeting held on March 12, 2014.

***Monica Beyrouti
Clerk to the Board of Directors***