



Friday, May 11, 2007

The Honorable Tom Ridge Addresses Business Community on Emergency Preparedness

PHILADELPHIA— The Honorable Tom Ridge, former Pennsylvania Governor and the first Secretary of Homeland Security, shared a national perspective on how companies should prepare for emergencies and disasters at Emergency Preparedness for Your Business, presented by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Blank Rome.

The Honorable Tom Ridge gave a national overview on the important role public-private sector collaborations play in disaster preparedness, response and recovery at the event on May 11, 2007 at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel. He also outlined the characteristics of successful collaborations and addressed the need for enhancing coordination between the business community and all levels of government.

"You should always be thinking about risk and business continuity," Ridge said. "An intelligent company is a resilient company ready to take a hit and move on."

Ridge emphasized how critical it is for a company to have a risk management plan in place and to train its employees on the elements of that plan. Ridge also outlined the need for companies to continue to be able to operate, to turn a profit and to keep people employed in the event of an incident.

About 400 people attended the event, which was co-sponsored by Day & Zimmerman, Deloitte, PECO, An Exelon Company, PJM Interconnection, Sprint, Sunoco Logistics and Symantec.

The program began with a panel discussion that focused on the Greater Philadelphia region. Panelists Major Richard H. Arroyo, Deputy Director, New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, John Dougherty, Chairman, Pennsylvania Southeastern Regional Counter-Terrorism Task Force, MaryAnn Marrocolo, Deputy Managing Director, City of Philadelphia, and Dr. Harvey Rubin, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Institute for Strategic Threat Analysis & Response, University of Pennsylvania, discussed topics regarding our region's "state of preparedness."

Tom Foley, CEO, Southeastern Pennsylvania American Red Cross moderated this session that also allowed time for questions from the audience.

###