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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### Executive Order 69

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#### **VIRGINIA'S SECURE COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVE**

Among the most important responsibilities and profound duties of government at all levels is to provide for the safety and security of its citizens. With this most serious obligation in mind and by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article 5, Sections 1 and 7 of the Constitution of Virginia and by Section 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia, I hereby establish the Virginia's Secure Commonwealth Initiative. The purpose of this Initiative shall be to implement strategies that enhance the safety and security of the citizens of the Commonwealth. The Initiative shall include, but not be limited to, enhancing the Commonwealth's prevention, preparedness and response and recovery capability for natural disasters and emergencies of all kinds, including terrorist attacks.

#### **SECURE COMMONWEALTH PANEL**

To support this Initiative, I hereby establish the Secure Commonwealth Panel (herein called the "Panel") to monitor and assess the implementation of statewide prevention, response and recovery initiatives and where necessary to review, evaluate and make recommendations relating to the emergency preparedness of government at all levels in the Commonwealth. Additionally, the Panel shall facilitate cabinet-level coordination among the various agencies of state government related to emergency preparedness and will facilitate private sector preparedness and communication. The Panel shall deliver to me by December 1, 2005, a comprehensive strategic plan that outlines the status of on-going statewide efforts and recommendations for future activities to manage the

physical, economic and societal risks of emergencies and disasters of all kinds, including terrorism.

The Panel shall consist of 20 members. The chairman of the Panel shall be the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness. Other members of the Panel shall include the Lieutenant Governor; the Attorney General; two members of the House of Delegates; two members of the Senate of Virginia; and the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Public Safety, Technology, and Transportation. The Governor shall appoint two local first responders and three local government representatives to the panel. The Governor shall also appoint four additional members from the private sector. Ex officio members may be appointed to the Panel by the Governor at his discretion.

Members of the Panel shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties upon approval by the Governor's Chief of Staff or his designee. The Panel shall convene, within sixty days of the signing of this order.

The Panel shall prepare quarterly reports for the Governor to keep him apprised of the state's emergency preparedness, response, recovery and prevention efforts. Staff support for the Panel will be provided by the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety, the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Department of State Police, the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Planning and Budget, and such other executive offices and agencies as may be designated by the Governor. An estimated 500 hours of staff time will be required to support the work of the Panel.

Funding necessary to support the Panel's work will be provided from sources, including both private and appropriated funds, contributed or appropriated for purposes related to the work of the Panel, as authorized by Section 2.2-135(B) of the Code of Virginia. Direct expenditures for the Panel's work are estimated to be \$60,000. All or part of the costs incurred by the Panel may be paid, upon my approval, out of the sum sufficient appropriation for Disaster Planning and Operations contained in Item 45 of Chapter 1073, 2000 Virginia Acts of Assembly, or any other funds available for such purpose.

## **STATE AGENCY PLANS**

I hereby direct all executive branch agency heads to certify to me by June 1, 2004 that they have completed updates and/or development of plans that address continuity of their operations and services, and the security of their customers and employees, in the event of natural or man-made disasters or emergencies, including terrorist attacks. I further direct that all executive branch agencies exercise and test these plans on or before September 1, 2005.

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUES**

I hereby designate the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness as my primary liaison for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Executive Office of the President, Homeland Security Council. He shall be responsible for coordinating, on my behalf, activities as required to promote unity of effort among federal, state, local, private sector and citizen activities related to preparedness and homeland security.

I hereby designate the Secretary of Public Safety as the single point of contact for federal law enforcement agencies regarding homeland security issues and to serve as an alternate liaison to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Executive Office of the President, Homeland Security Council if so required. I hereby designate the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness to work with appropriate cabinet secretaries to coordinate grants that may be provided to improve preparedness in Virginia communities with the goal of ensuring an integrated enterprise wide approach to prevention and preparedness.

This Executive Order rescinds Executive Order 07 (02). Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 3rd day of May 2004.

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Mark R. Warner, Governor

Attest:

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Secretary of the Commonwealth