Relationships and Planning ahead

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Cedar Rapids 2008 Flood Map

100, 500 and 500+ year flood
HIGH WATER OVERTAKES DOWNTOWN CEDAR RAPIDS. THOUSANDS EVACUATED IN UNPRECEDENTED FLOOD. POWER LOSS WIDESPREAD: WATER IN SHORT SUPPLY.

EPIC SURGE

WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AT
WWW.GAZETTE.COM
What Do You Do when the unthinkable happens?

Every relationship counts! People will find you and call you. You will leverage everything to help your community. And I had thought about various potential disasters and drilled ahead of this disaster.
Why is Resilience so Important & What Does it Mean?

National Academy of Sciences publication – relationships are important
Risk and Resilience

• Risk – the chance of something **BAD** happening
• Resilience – the ability for a system to respond to, absorb and recover from disruption and return to its core functions
• Assessing risk – natural as well as social and political
• Resilience is not a fixed commodity – and requires building relationships, trust and understanding (over and over)
• The vision and understanding of risk and resilience requires work every day
What Are Your Risks?

• They may be different than what you anticipated (the trap of preparing for the last disaster you experienced)
• Common everyday risks
• Black Swan risks
• Getting a community to prepare
• What haven’t you thought about?
The Challenges of an Elected Official

• Elected Officials are rarely strategic and often reactive
• Public demands are varied and broad
• Must be knowledgeable about many things
• They need to speak truth
• Building relationships with staff is required to get to outcomes
• Getting re-elected
The Obstacles & Opportunities

• We don’t have enough time
• We don’t have enough money
• This may never happen
• Others will fix this if it does happen
• Politics!
• A better more resilient community
• A common vision of what you want your community to be.
Case

Budget impacts – prepared vs. unprepared

Planning helps to build relationships that assist in disasters

Learn to tell a story – or help your elected be a storyteller
We Should All Be In This Together

• Language and perspective matters
• Speaking the truth is important – citizens need to know the challenges and the path ahead
• When trying to build buy in for a plan – how do you move people when they don’t believe it will happen
• Build relationships and partnerships before you need them!
• Partners are often found in surprising places
• Ask yourself – what are we missing?
Thank you!

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