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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 30, 2004
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HARTFORD- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) today announced that the City of Hartford has been awarded a \$400,000 federal grant to enable the city to better respond to an act of terrorism or other large-scale disaster. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security awarded the funding through the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant program. The program assists urban areas with writing plans, developing training and conducting exercises related to terrorist attacks. The MMRS grants enable cities to achieve an enhanced capability to respond to weapons of mass destruction and mass casualty events.

“This grant will help Hartford and the capital region to better respond to a major disaster or terrorist attack,” said Larson. “A fast, integrated local response during the first hours after a disaster has taken place is critical to saving lives until outside assistance can arrive. This funding will help give the city the tools they need to be prepared and to coordinate their response. The grant will also help establish stronger linkages among first responders, medical treatment resources, public health officials, emergency management offices, volunteer organizations and others to work together to save lives in a wake of a major emergency.”

The Chairperson of the Capital Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC), West Hartford Fire Chief William Austin stated: “We are very pleased that Hartford has received this award because it will serve as a resource to help protect the public in the Capital Region.”

Katherine McCormack, the Director of Emergency Management for the City of Hartford and the MMRS project officer stated: “Mayor Perez is extremely pleased that the City of Hartford has been awarded this grant and is proud of the collaborative effort between the city and Congressman Larson’s office and the Capital Region Council of Governments in securing it. We are going to use this money to operationalize MMRS through the Medical Reserve Corps, which is a unique opportunity. This will help create a specialized medical response team for the Capitol Region.”

MMRS grants also increase the preparedness of jurisdictions for mass casualty incidents involving hazardous materials, an epidemic disease outbreak or a natural disaster and emphasize enhanced mutual aid with neighboring jurisdictions and state and federal agencies. The funding for Hartford was part of a total of more than \$46 million in Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grants that were announced for the year by the Department of Homeland Security. The 110 grants reach 114 MMRS jurisdictions throughout the United States. Congressman Larson worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and local officials through the application process.

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