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**AD HOC REPORT
Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement
Item # 10 April 2009**

Honorable Mark D. Boughton, Mayor
Common Council Members

April 20, 2009

Chairman Curran called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. in the Caucus Room at City Hall. In attendance were committee members Councilman Visconti and Councilwoman McMahon. Chief Geoffrey Herald, Deputy Chief Thomas Wiedl, Deputy Corporation Counsel Laszlo Pinter was also present. Ex-officio members Councilman Cavo, Councilman Knapp and Councilman Seabury were also in attendance.

Chairman Curran turned the discussion over to Chief Herald. Chief Herald gave an overview of the Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement. This agreement will create the formation of a response team for incidents involving hazardous materials. The purpose of the agreement is to provide mutual assistance among the participating municipalities for any incident which results in the need for mutual aid assistance. In conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), Region 5 has formed the Northwest Hazardous Response Team. Waterbury, Torrington and Danbury will constitute the response team for the geographic region. The local fire chief or designee of the municipality would be the incident commander. All three municipalities will be working under the same agreement.

Discussion followed regarding reimbursement and liability issues for firefighters.

Chief Herald advised that, in most cases the transporter, supplier or manufacturer would be responsible for reimbursement should there be an incident.

Atty. Pinter advised that state statute provides that liability for the firefighters would remain with the dispatching municipality and the intent is not necessarily for reimbursement, but to help each other out. In some cases, FEMA may be a reimbursement agent.

For the record, Chief Herald stated that the Danbury Fire Department houses a number of vehicles for the State including a mass decon /communications trailer, a foam trailer, a hazardous material response vehicle with tools and equipment and tow vehicles. Hazardous material technical class funding has also been recently approved.

Councilman Visconti moved to approve the agreement as proposed, seconded by Councilwoman McMahon. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Councilman Visconti moved to adjourn at 6:20 P.M., seconded by Councilwoman McMahon. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Curran, Chairman

Fred Visconti

Louise McMahon