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***Lt. Governor Cawley Joins County Council
to assess hurricane-damaged areas of Delaware County***

Delaware County Council was joined by Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley in touring flood-damaged areas of Delaware County Monday afternoon to gauge the effects of Hurricane Irene on Delaware County businesses and homes.

After touring impacted areas in Bucks County, Lt. Gov. Cawley came to Delaware County where he met with County Council, municipal officials and residents to assess the damage and start the recovery process. One of the nearby businesses is Napa Auto Parts on Springfield Road, which was totally engulfed by water during the storm.

Hurricane Irene barreled through Delaware County from mid-Saturday through Sunday evening, causing major power outages, downed trees and flooded neighborhoods. County Council had a conference call with the lieutenant governor and officials from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Association (PEMA) on Monday morning to do a rapid assessment of damages.

“While we are pleased that there was no loss of life in Delaware County, now is the time for us to focus efforts on repairing the damage that was caused by Hurricane Irene,” said County Councilman Jack Whelan. “Thankfully we had plenty of warning, which gave everyone a chance to prepare, to mobilize our emergency responders and to have our residents take safety precautions. Yes, we felt Irene’s punch, but we stood up to that punch and now we are getting back on our feet.

“Across the county, and across the state, everyone came together -- the police, emergency personnel, firefighters, Red Cross, PECO, PennDOT and even the National Guard – went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the best possible outcome and the minimum loss from this hurricane,” Whelan said.

Whelan reported that as of noon today, PECO officials said there were 25,600 customers still without power. That’s down from 93,000 on Sunday evening.

(more)

(Hurricane aftermath continued)

The Delaware County Emergency Services Center reported 3,849 emergency calls from 9 a.m. Saturday through 8 p.m. Sunday, compared to a normal weekday total of 1,200.

For the duration of the hurricane, the Delaware County Emergency Operations Center was staffed by the County's own emergency personnel in addition to representatives from PECO, PennDot, the State Fire Commissioners, the National Guard and County officials.

Chairman Whelan said municipal managers were advised today to assess their key damage sites. He said PEMA damage assistance teams are expected to visit Delaware County on Thursday.

County Councilman Tom McGarrigle thanked the residents and businesses of Delaware County for heeding all warnings in advance of the hurricane and he praised all emergency responders for the "incredible job they did in keeping our residents safe."

"In Delaware County, we are extremely proud of the partnerships we have with our municipalities, our emergency responders, our hospitals and all other entities, and we made out as well as we did thanks to the coordinated efforts of all of these people," Councilman McGarrigle said. "From the workers who manned the emergency shelters to the police who rescued people in floodwaters, to the utility workers who came from all over to get our power lines back up. We want to thank everyone and say 'job well done.'"

Lt. Gov. Cawley met with the local officials and detailed how the damage assessment process would work.