



MAYOR'S OFFICE

City of Leominster, Massachusetts

CITY HALL - 25 WEST STREET
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01453
www.leominster-ma.gov

DEAN J. MAZZARELLA
Mayor
dmazzarella@leominster-ma.gov

TELEPHONE (978) 534-7500 FACSIMILE (978) 534-0668

FEMA update - December 4, 2023

I wanted to take a moment to provide an update with respect to securing FEMA funds for damage caused by the September 11, 2023 flood.

The Office of Emergency Management, the Department of Public Works, and my office have been taking the lead on responding to requests for information from MEMA and FEMA for all levels of a possible disaster declaration from the federal government. All other city departments have been playing a supportive role in providing information on areas under their jurisdiction with respect to city infrastructure damage. Over the past month, we have hired 3 independent engineering firms to confirm and expand on data submitted by the City. It has been a strong team effort across all departments and our private sector partners.

As of last Friday, we were advised by FEMA that the City has complied with all requests for information. Now that the process is complete, FEMA and MEMA will make a recommendation to the Governor on a federal disaster declaration for individual assistance (homeowners), business assistance, and public assistance (city infrastructure damage). At that time, the Governor will forward her recommendation to the President. The deadline for the Governor's recommendation is December 11, 2023.

This has been one of the most complex processes the city has undertaken during my time as Mayor. Our city departments, consultants, and contractors have worked seamlessly and tirelessly with state agencies such as MassDOT to complete temporary repairs to get the city open, as well as to compile the mountain of information needed to attempt to secure a disaster declaration for homeowners, businesses and city damage. I have spoken personally to our state and federal delegations as well as the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. They have all been completely supportive and strong advocates of the City of Leominster during the process.

Within the next week, we will know FEMA and MEMA's recommendation for what level of assistance will be provided to the City, its residents, and businesses. Once they make their decision, it is my hope that FEMA and MEMA will be proactive about getting the necessary information to everyone involved. My office will use every avenue to let the public know the decision on what resources will be made available as well.

Thank you for your patience.