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### Full Los Angeles Auditorium Gathers To Hear Fmr. Commissioner Joe Bruno Address Lessons From Superstorm Sandy

On January 20, a crowd of between 150-200 gathered at the California Endowment in Los Angeles for the second installment of the Los Angeles Operational Area Lecture Series sponsored by the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management. RedLand's own Joe Bruno, former Commissioner of the New York City Office of Emergency Management, was featured as the keynote speaker and offered his insights to attendees about lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy in the realm of emergency management during his tenure.

Jeff L. Reeb, Chief Executive Officer of the County of Los Angeles & Director of the L.A. County Office of Emergency Management, introduced Mr. Bruno to the group made up of county officials, emergency managers, city officials, students, and others.

In his lecture Mr. Bruno discussed a variety of themes including OEM's role in New York City, the management of emergencies vis-à-vis a Citywide Incident Management System (CIMS), and operational planning.

With particular respect to Superstorm Sandy (2012), Mr. Bruno made the point that Hurricane Irene (2011) and the way it was categorized as a Category 1 storm—the same as Sandy— influenced the expectations and decision-making processes of NYC at the time. Although they were both similarly categorized, Superstorm Sandy proved to be much more destructive.

Mr. Bruno explained that the City of New York learned a considerable amount from Sandy and had an awakening following the storm. In the aftermath it was key for the organizations involved in re-building to “get big enough fast enough”.

Overall Mr. Bruno's message was: in spite of the advancement of modern technologies, natural disasters can be unpredictable and destructive, but in the face of devastation it is necessary to have the strength to overcome, coordinate efforts to rebuild, and learn from mistakes in order to come back better and stronger for the future.

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