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NEWS RELEASE

October 23, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Planning Federation Hosts Educational Session on the Importance of Coordinating Land Uses with Emergency Services

POMONA – The Rockland Municipal Planning Federation will sponsor an educational session on Monday, October 29, 2012, regarding Emergency Services in the Planning Imperative. The session, which is being co-hosted by the Rockland County Office of Fire & Emergency Services and the Rockland County Fire Chiefs' Association, will take place from 7 to 10 pm at the Rockland County Fire Training Center, 35 Firemen's Memorial Drive in Pomona. The session is free of charge and open to the public.

Safety, in all of its aspects, must be paramount in the minds of all elected officials and appointed board members when making land-use decisions. Traffic safety is often a primary focus, but many other aspects of planning for emergency services may not be as obvious. Emergency service response is required within the planning board, zoning board of appeals, and zone change approval process. However, understanding what is expected of fire inspectors and boards can be confusing. This training session provides a comprehensive review of procedures to ensure coordination of land use planning and emergency service needs, with a goal of improving communications and timeliness within the review process.

The session will include a Planning Overview presented by land-use attorney Ira Emanuel, followed by a panel session on Design Considerations moderated by Village of New Hempstead Planning Board Chairman Charles Frankel, including panel members Joseph Caruso, P.E., Maser Consulting; Jan Degenshein, Architect, Degenshein Architects; and Gordon Wren, Rockland County Director of Fire & Emergency Services. A second panel on the subjects of Materials, State Building/Fire Codes and Local Municipal Codes will be moderated by Clarkstown Planning Board Vice-Chairman Rudolph Yacyshyn, with panel members Thomas Buckley, Town of Ramapo Chief Fire Inspector and member of the Village of Sloatsburg Fire Department; and Thomas B. Vanderbeek, P.E., Rockland County Planning Commissioner and NY State Codes Council member.

Following the panel sessions, Hon. Howard Gerber, Clarkstown Town Justice and Valley Cottage Fire Chief, will offer a Judicial Perspective, followed by the Closing and Next Steps, presented by Charles Frankel and Harold Straut, President of the Rockland County Fire Chiefs' Association and member of the Nanuet Fire Department.

The educational session is geared toward municipal Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals members, elected officials, building inspectors, code enforcement officers, architectural board members, architects, building department staff, engineers, environmentalists, property developers and managers, planners and other interested community members.

Registration is free and attendees will also be eligible to receive three hours of credit toward the State-mandated, 4-hour annual training requirements for municipal Planning and Zoning Board members.

The Rockland Municipal Planning Federation is comprised of Town and Village Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members, plus members of the Rockland County Planning Board and the Rockland County Department of Planning. The staff, attorneys, consultants and building inspectors for the boards and land use professionals such as planners, surveyors, architects, and engineers are also members. Any individual interested in the purposes of the Federation may become an Associate Member.

The Federation serves a number of purposes, including creating and maintaining a forum to discuss common land use planning and regulation, zoning and related issues. The Federation also offers education and training in planning and zoning methods and land use issues, as well as certification for municipal planning and zoning board members.

To pre-register for the Rockland Municipal Planning Federation's October 29th Educational Session, please call Arlene Miller at 845-364-3448, or send an e-mail to millera@co.rockland.ny.us. Those planning to register at the door on the night of the event are asked to please arrive by 6:45 pm for registration.

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