

CLAYTON



Date: April 8, 2010

To: All Clayton Community Emergency Response Team Members

From: Herb Yonge, Chairman

City of Clayton Citizen Corps Council (C5)

On February 2, 2010 we sent a letter to all Clayton Residents who have taken CERT classes to gain knowledge of emergency preparedness and a desire to assist the City in the event of an emergency.

In the letter we discussed the intent to go to a three tiered program in order to primarily address liability issues. After feedback from some CERT members and a review by our Chief of Police and City Manager, our classes scheduled for April were postponed until a further review of the proposal, including liability issues from the past format, could be resolved. As a result, **please disregard the content contained in the letter of February 2, 2010.**

On April 6, 2010 our Chief of Police presented to the City Council the recommendation that we go forward with our CERT Program as follows:

1. Continue to provide a two hour basic emergency preparedness class, for information only.
2. Continue the six week CERT Program.
3. CERT members who have gone through training beginning with our first class in the spring of 2007 are to be sworn in as Disaster Service Worker Volunteers (DSWV).
4. Residents who enroll in future CERT classes will be sworn in as DSWV.

This recommendation was approved unanimously by the Clayton City Council and becomes effective immediately.

The City Council wanted to focus on the primary purpose and goal of the CERT program, which is to have as many Clayton residents trained to be able to respond and assist local government during a *declared emergency*. The approved Clayton CERT program simplifies our CERT program and addresses liability for both the City and CERT volunteers when they respond and react to situations during a *declared emergency*.

According to legal advice provided to the City, by the Municipal Pooling Authority, anyone (and everyone) who attends and graduates from the six week CERT course and who is injured responding to a situation during a *declared emergency* in the future, or who participates in training, will be covered under the State's DSWV program for their injuries. As a result, all participants will be registered and sworn-in as DSWV's.

Our Zone Coordinators will be contacting you about the dates available to you to be sworn in as a DSWV.

Our spring 2010 CERT Training sessions will begin Wednesday, May 5, 2010. We will continue to conduct our classes at Endeavor Hall beginning at 6:30pm.

Should you have any questions please channel them through you Zone Coordinator.