



CITY OF PEEKSKILL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEMA AWARDS GRANT TO PEEKSKILL'S BRAVEST

(Peekskill, New York)...Mayor John G. Testa and the Common Council are pleased to announce that the Peekskill Fire Department has been awarded a grant of \$295,731 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under its Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The Peekskill Fire Department submitted a grant application for financial assistance under this program for Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety in April 2002.

The Peekskill Fire Department applied for federal funds to upgrade and replace inadequate fire fighting equipment and personnel protective equipment. The application submitted also requested funds to a Rapid Intervention Team, whose services will not only be utilized in Peekskill but throughout Westchester County. The Peekskill Fire Department responds on average to 800 calls per year; among those are hazardous conditions/materials calls, EMS and rescue calls, and structure and vehicular fire calls.

"I am overwhelmed that out of the 800 grants awarded nationally, the Peekskill Fire Department received the 15th largest nationally and the largest in New York State at this point. The members of the Peekskill Fire Department will be able to get the finest gear available on the market," commented John Pappas, Second Assistant Fire Chief.

"In a post September 11 environment, our firefighters and emergency personnel should be equipped to meet all challenges. Thanks to the help of Congresswoman Sue Kelly, and with FEMA's assistance, the Peekskill Fire Department will have the necessary tools to ensure our safety and security. The Common Council and I are proud of all our firefighters who make a difference every day in the lives of our community. We thank FEMA for recognizing the unmet need in Peekskill and providing the funding to fill the gap," stated Mayor John G. Testa.

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