
City OKs emergency access plan in time for DNC; [All Editions]

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Abstract (Document Summary)

Mayor Thomas M. Menino said the program wasn't designed with the DNC in mind but would be used if disaster struck during the four- day FleetCenter event.

Menino said the identification cards won't get employees inside the security perimeter the Secret Service is setting up around the FleetCenter during the convention, however.

Full Text (207 words)

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City officials - stepping up their emergency planning as the Democratic National Convention looms - yesterday unveiled a program that would give key downtown workers access to their company offices during a crisis.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino said the program wasn't designed with the DNC in mind but would be used if disaster struck during the four- day FleetCenter event.

"We're not doing this because of the DNC," Menino said. "If something did happen down there, yeah, probably we'd be able to implement it there."

The program was inspired by the four-day shutdown of lower Manhattan after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. It will allow businesses to designate "critical employees," who will be allowed back into their offices before those buildings are officially reopened.

"The program is designed to help businesses back to normal as soon as possible," said Mark Haimovitz, president of the Business Network of Emergency Responses, which helped craft the program.

The companies will pay \$50 every two years for each of the identification cards that will get them past police barricades in the event of an emergency.

Menino said the identification cards won't get employees inside the security perimeter the Secret Service is setting up around the FleetCenter during the convention, however.

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