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## **ROCKLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, COUNTY EXECUTIVE SUPPORT EMERGENCY CREDENTIALING OF CRITICAL BUSINESS EMPLOYEES**

The Rockland Business Association, and the Office of the Rockland County Executive, C. Scott Vanderhoef, have agreed to support the use of the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS) as the County's post disaster business credentialing program. The Rockland County Homeland Security Task Force would facilitate the program, which would give essential personnel access to restricted and disaster areas after an emergency occurs.

CEAS is a countywide government and business sector partnership created by the not-for-profit, New York-based Business Network of Emergency Resources (BNET), which allows authorized, credentialed personnel into disaster areas in order to get Rockland's businesses up and running after an emergency or natural disaster. Local authorities and police agencies could implement the CEAS program once immediate threats to life are stabilized. BNET will manage the CEAS program.

"It's imperative that Rockland's businesses and economy recover as quickly as possible after an emergency," said C. Scott Vanderhoef, Rockland County Executive. "The CEAS program will help key employees get back to work quickly, recover vital information and stabilize Rockland's economy in the wake of an emergency event."

"Rockland County has been recognized in the law enforcement and homeland security fields for providing innovative procedures in the case of emergencies" said Al Samuels, President/CEO of the Rockland Business Association. "We are pleased that the business community will work closely with the Rockland County Executive's Office and Rockland County's Homeland Security Task Force to implement this innovative credentialing initiative with BNET."

"Safeguarding and restoring businesses and the infrastructure is key to the rapid recovery for the Rockland County and its people" said Peter Picarillo, Executive Director of BNET, Inc. "With 85-percent of the nation's critical infrastructure being privately owned, the CEAS re-entry system is essential for making business a priority following a serious emergency or disaster."

BNET's CEAS program has already been implemented in five northeastern cities: New York City and Buffalo, New York, Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Stamford, Connecticut. Cities nationwide are expected to participate in the near future.

"This is a tremendous initiative for the people of Rockland and for businesses large and small," said Robert Leviton, M.D., President of the Business Network of Emergency Resources (BNET). "It's vital that all businesses are able to recover following a major disaster to help communities get back to work. This program will play a big part in those recovery efforts."

Member companies cover the program's administrative costs with no financial cost to the County. Small, medium, and large companies are all invited to enroll.

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### **About Business Network of Emergency Resources, Inc (BNET)**

BNET, headquartered in New York City, is a not-for-profit company dedicated to establishing practical and effective emergency and crisis management solutions through partnerships between the public and private sector. Created by BNET, the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS) uses a 'critical employee access card' system to mitigate the economic loss incurred through unforeseen emergencies where access to the workplace is restricted. The goal of CEAS is to accelerate recovery time for both business and government. For more information visit [www.ceas.com](http://www.ceas.com).