



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

COL. KRISTE KIBBEY ETUE
DIRECTOR

May 24, 2012

Mr. Conan Smith, Chairperson
Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
230 North Main Street
P. O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8645

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WASHTENAW COUNTY MI
2012 MAY 29 A 11:45
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
LANSING MICHIGAN

Dear Chair Smith:

I am in receipt of Washtenaw County's April 12, 2012, declaration of a local state of emergency and request to Governor Rick Snyder for a Governor's emergency or disaster declaration under 1976 Public Act 390, as amended, for assistance in connection with a tornado that occurred in and around the Village of Dexter in Washtenaw County on March 15, 2012. In your request, you asked that the Governor declare a "State of Disaster" for Washtenaw County and "implement Michigan Emergency Management Act Section 19 Disaster Contingency funding to assist our agencies in their financial recovery from this disaster."

To justify a state declaration, it would be necessary for the County to demonstrate the continuing threat of "widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property" in accordance with § 30.402 of the Michigan Emergency Management Act. With regard to your request for a state declaration of disaster, the events which transpired do not warrant a state declaration at this time because the impact area was relatively localized, immediate public health and safety threats have effectively been dealt with by the County's actions, and there are no serious, lingering threats to public health and safety which would further require the direct assistance of state agencies. Although numerous homes and businesses in and around the Village of Dexter incurred damage or were destroyed, and roadways in the vicinity of the tornado damage were temporarily blocked by downed trees, debris, and power lines, these hazardous conditions were effectively addressed by the prompt actions of the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, the Village of Dexter, Dexter Township, numerous area fire departments, and other local and county agencies.

State assistance was provided, proactively, by the Michigan State Police, which mobilized approximately 30 troopers in the immediate aftermath of the storm to assist with traffic and access control and other onsite emergency protective measures. Also, work crews from the Michigan Department of Corrections, Special Alternatives Incarceration Program in Chelsea, helped with debris clearance and removal activities in and around the Village of Dexter for several days during the week following the storm. In addition, the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, has continuously monitored the incident response since March 15 and has provided advice and technical assistance as appropriate. No other requests for direct state assistance were ever received from the County.

I must note that the efforts of the County, the Village of Dexter, Dexter Township, and the many mutual-aid partners and volunteers to quickly respond to the tornado damage to protect public health, safety, and property are certainly commendable. The County's proactive approach in dealing with this difficult incident bears witness to the effectiveness of its emergency preparedness efforts. When needed, these efforts were successful in protecting the public from serious threat or harm caused by the March 15, 2012, tornado. I was also pleased to see, from the County's damage assessment reports, that almost all of the damage to homes and businesses will be covered by private insurance, enabling the owners to rebuild their property and to restore a sense of normalcy to their lives. Clearly, this storm dealt the Village of Dexter a severe setback, but the community has risen to the task and has shown tremendous resiliency in its efforts to rebuild, restore, and recover.

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Again, thank you for your ongoing commitment to protecting the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of Washtenaw County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Thomas Sands". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

W. Thomas Sands, Captain
Deputy State Director of Emergency Management
and Homeland Security

cc: Mr. Marc Breckenridge, Emergency Services Director, Washtenaw County
Mr. Michael F. Gadola, Legal Affairs Director, Executive Office
Mr. John Roberts, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, Director, Michigan Department of State Police
Mr. Shawn Sible, Deputy Director, Support Services Bureau, Michigan Department of State Police
Lt. Walter Davis, Second District (South) Coordinator, Michigan Department of State Police