

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Peter Picarillo
Executive Director
Business Network of Emergency Resources
(845) 778-3778
(888) 353- BNET

**BNET ANNOUNCES THE ADDITION OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD TO THE
CORPORATE EMERGENCY ACCESS SYSTEM (CEAS) FAMILY**

**Stamford the fourth northeast city to enlist in the growing, innovative pre-crisis
credentialing system for businesses**

June 2, 2005 - Dr. Robert H. Leviton, President of the Business Network of Emergency Resources, Inc (BNet), announced today the addition of the City of Stamford, Connecticut as the newest municipality to join the growing family of governments utilizing the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS) to assist business recovery following a serious emergency or disaster. Stamford Joins New York City, Boston and Buffalo in using the CEAS program.

CEAS is a public/private partnership that assists local businesses to re-enter areas restricted to public access due to emergency conditions. By providing critical business employees with secure identification cards, before an event occurs, business "first responders" are quickly identified by local law enforcement officers. When conditions permit, CEAS allows these identified employees' priority access to company work sites to help sustain guardianship of their company until "normal" local conditions resume.

The CEAS program exists by written agreements with local, county or state governments that recognize the importance of business continuity and agree to utilize the program in the event of an emergency that causes a business interruption. The cost of the program is bourn entirely by the participating private sector companies without cost to the governments initiating the program.

The program is operated with the assistance of BNet, a not-for-profit organization that develops public-private initiatives between businesses and local and state governments throughout the United States. Other cities and regions including Cambridge, Massachusetts and Westchester County, NY are currently developing CEAS programs.

"Municipalities are finally making the connection between the survivability of businesses at the local level, the welfare of the local economy and the potential downstream impact on national critical infrastructure following a major emergency or disaster" said Dr. Leviton. Dr Leviton also noted that, "At BNet we realized long before the September 11th tragedy the need to assist business recovery by developing a system that identifies those with legitimate need to access a restricted area."

"One of the many hard lessons learned during the response to 9/11 was the time, manpower and effort it took to initiate a credentialing process following the event to allow business people to re-enter the Ground Zero restricted zone", said Peter Picarillo, Executive Director of BNet and Former Director of Public-Private Initiatives of the New York City Office of Emergency Management. "Since it is a pre-event program, CEAS goes a long way to helping alleviate the burden from local government and eases business access during times when they need it the most".

The Business Network of Emergency Resources, Inc. (BNet) incorporated during 1999 as a result of the federally funded Joint Loss Reduction Partnership (JLRP). The results of this unique and original public-private endeavor sought to identify and address critical business needs immediately following a disaster.

A key finding of the JLRP was that during emergency events, business employees were routinely denied access to restricted areas, often for extended periods of time, and could not gain access to critical business information and infrastructure. BNet's mission is to carry out the final recommendations of the JLRP report, one of which was to develop a uniform credentialing system for businesses, now known as the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS). For more information about BNet please visit www.bnetinc.org.

For more information about CEAS, visit www.CEAS.com or call BNet at (888) 353-BNet.

In Stamford Contact:

William Callion

Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare

City of Stamford

203-977-5919

Tanya Court

Director, Public Policy & Programs

The Business Council of Fairfield County

203-359-3220