



MAYOR'S OFFICE

City of Leominster, Massachusetts

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City of Leominster denied federal funds for September storm

The City of Leominster suffered at least \$30 million in public property damage from the September 11, 2023 storm that brought 10 inches of rain in just 4 hours to the City of 43,000 people in Central Massachusetts. Last night word came from FEMA that a final decision had been made that no funds would be made available for the extensive repairs needed across the city for city property.

“This is devastating news. Leominster is a city that is and will continue to be aggressive about maintaining our infrastructure. This 1000-year storm destroyed one month old sidewalks, freshly paved and striped roads, and even a recently replaced culvert. It’s heartbreaking.” said Mayor Dean Mazzarella. “We spent \$2 million of city money just on temporary repairs to get our city open again.”

On behalf of the City, the Healey/Driscoll Administration filed a disaster declaration for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance last winter. Both parts of the application were denied in February of 2024. The City worked with the Governor’s office to appeal the decision. Earlier this month, the Individual Assistance was approved but the Public Assistance remained under review until yesterday when it was denied.

The Mayor commended his team’s effort in trying to secure the designation. “From September 12 on, our team worked night and day to try to secure this declaration. We hired engineers to certify our data, we worked with state agencies to capture their costs, and we hired a consulting firm specializing in FEMA disaster declarations to help. In the end, we are left with 75 damaged sites – some costing multi-millions each to repair. Instead of seeking grants and other funds to repair the next projects on our priority list, we will need to try to secure them to repair sites damaged by the flood.”

“I’m grateful for the assistance to homeowners and businesses in Leominster. Many people in our community were left struggling to repair sudden and unexpected damage. On the public infrastructure side, I can assure you that our team will continue our hard work to secure funding to make our community whole again.” Said Mayor Dean Mazzarella