

For Immediate Release: September 16, 2011

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Molinaro Participates in First Candidates Forum at Dutchess

Fire Chiefs Council Meeting

17 Years of Experience as Public Servant and Volunteer Fireman Highlighted

September 16, 2011 Millerton, NY - Assemblyman Marc Molinaro, (R,C,I) candidate for Dutchess County Executive joined local fire officials Thursday night at the Millerton Fire Department to discuss the challenges facing firefighters and emergency services in Dutchess County. Molinaro was invited to attend the Dutchess County Fire Chief's Council's monthly dinner meeting and participate in a County Executive candidate forum. The event presented fire officials the opportunity to talk to each of the candidate's about their knowledge, experience and plans to strengthen Emergency Services in Dutchess County.

Molinaro, a fifteen year member of the Tivoli Fire Department and Rescue Squad, demonstrated a strong command of the issues facing both volunteer and career emergency first responders. "Dutchess County depends on the men and women who serve our community during emergencies. Our citizen volunteers commit countless hours away from their families with training, drills and put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. The impacts of Hurricane Irene are just the most recent reminder that we must not waiver in our commitment to ensure that our first responders have the tools and support needed for a strong county Emergency Response system," said Assemblyman Molinaro.

The candidate's forum was moderated by Chief Brian D. Kelly of the J.H. Ketcham Hose Company of Dover Fire Department. Each candidate responded to topics ranging from; their knowledge and experience dealing with the specialized county response teams such as the Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Critical Incident Stress Response Team, to the county training facilities and their understanding of the budgetary and fiscal needs of the agencies and departments as well as each candidate's personal experience in emergency preparedness.

DeWitt Sagendorph, former Dutchess County Emergency Response Coordinator, attended the event and said, "Marc Molinaro demonstrated the in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience that we need in our next county executive. Marc understands our communities' fire and emergency medical services needs and is committed to ensuring those services remain strong and vibrant in Dutchess County."

Molinaro's knowledge and understanding of emergency response was clearly articulated. He offered numerous examples from his own experience as both a volunteer member of his fire department and as Mayor of Tivoli, where he oversaw emergency response operations, including the 1997 "SnowBud" when the majority of Tivoli was immobilized by snow and power outages.

"First responders in our county can count on Marc to provide the steady hand and support needed in an emergency situation. We are extremely fortunate to have someone with his experience and firsthand knowledge of our issues. I have known Marc Molinaro for years and look forward to working with him as our next County Executive," stated Ray Zulauf, Chief of the Beekman Fire Department.

"My commitment to fire and emergency services has been steadfast, as Mayor, as Dutchess County Legislator and as State Assemblyman. I have volunteered alongside these men and women and know we are fortunate to have so many dedicated to public safety. As County Executive, I look forward to continuing my strong relationships with the fire and emergency response officials of our community and working to continue to build upon the solid foundation we have," Assemblyman Molinaro.

Marc lives in the Village of Red Hook with his wife, Christy (a Registered Nurse at Northern Dutchess Hospital); and two children, Abigail Faith (7 years old) and Jack Henry (2 years old). Election Day is November 8, 2011. For more information, visit Marc Molinaro online at www.molinarofordutchess.com or find him on Facebook and TWITTER (Marcus Molinaro).