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OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE

## City's Emergency Manager Hails New Emergency Heating and Cooling Center

**Thursday, April 14, 2016** -- The Winter Hill community recently celebrated a ribbon cutting for its new generator at their community center. The building could now be used as an emergency heating and cooling center in case of a large emergency in the City.

"Community partnerships build resilience," said City of Falls Church Emergency Manager Tom Polera. "This is the perfect case of working together for the greater good. I look forward to partnering with the Winter Hill community and the Falls Church Housing Corporation to utilize this new facility in case of a Citywide emergency."

The generator was partially funded with \$54,400 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) received from the City and awarded to the Falls Church Housing Corporation (FCHC). The need for a heating and cooling center in Winter Hill was realized during the Derecho storm in 2012 that caused a four day power outage. Thomas Vaccaro, Executive Director of the Falls Church Housing Corporation, and Fred Mitchell, Senior Vice President of the NHP Foundation, then met with Polera to discuss mitigation efforts. They determined that a natural gas generator along with planned upgrades to the existing community center would make Winter Hill a more resilient community.

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Officials from the City, Winter Hill community, Falls Church Housing Corporation and NHP Foundation cut the grand opening ribbon on a new generator at the Winter Hill community center, April 12, 2016.

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