



GOV. PHILIP D. MURPHY | LT. GOV. SHEILA Y. OLIVER | DIR. JARED M. MAPLES

NJOHSP**OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS**

NJOHSP Hosts Inaugural NJCCIC Cyber Symposium

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Press Contact: Patrick R. Rigby
communications@njohsp.gov | 609.584.4392

FREEHOLD, NJ — On March 20, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP), through its New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC), hosted the first NJCCIC Cyber Symposium at the Event Center at iPlay America in Freehold. The event brought together over 300 members of public-sector organizations, including state, county, and municipal governments and authorities, as well as K-12 and higher education institutions.

Many public-sector organizations throughout New Jersey fell victim to predatory cybersecurity incidents over the past year. With proper cyber risk management, many of these agencies could have avoided or been more resilient to these forms of attack, saving millions of dollars in financial losses.

“The continual growth and enhancement of cybersecurity capabilities throughout the State is one of my Office’s highest priorities,” said **Director Jared M. Maples of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness**, which is responsible for cybersecurity efforts in New Jersey. “In a world increasingly dependent on technology, the threat posed by cyber attacks cannot be understated or underestimated. We will continue to remain at the forefront of cyber resiliency efforts throughout the State.”

“Since our inception three years ago, the NJCCIC’s membership has grown to include over 4,000 organizations and 8,600 individuals as members,” said **Director Michael Geraghty of the New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell**. “We are a resource that is available to all public- and private-sector organizations, as well as the general public. Our mission is to make New Jersey more resilient to cyber attacks. The only way we are going to have a chance of being successful is by sharing information and working together against our common threats.”

The purpose of the Symposium was to bring together organizations that could fall victim to cybersecurity vulnerabilities and threats in order to provide practical strategies, tactics, resources, and tools to help them manage and mitigate cyber risk.

For more information on the NJCCIC or to become a member, please visit cyber.nj.gov.

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The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP), a Cabinet-level agency, was created in 2006. The Director serves as the Governor’s Homeland Security Advisor, and is responsible for leading and coordinating the State’s counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness efforts while building resiliency throughout the State across all levels of government and the private sector. NJOHSP oversees and distributes discretionary State and federal

homeland security and emergency preparedness funds on behalf of New Jersey. More information about NJOHSP can be found at www.njhomelandsecurity.gov.