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## INTRODUCTION

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**Mr. Samuel P. Williamson**  
Federal Coordinator  
Office of the Federal Coordinator for  
Meteorological Services and Supporting Research

### Welcome

After welcoming the participants to the Urban Meteorology Forum, Mr. Williamson acknowledged that the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate partnered with OFCM in developing the Urban Meteorology Forum.

Following administrative remarks, Mr. Williamson stated that the theme of the forum was “Information to Improve Community Responses to Urban Atmospheric Hazards, Weather Events, and Climate.” He also introduced the forum’s five focus areas of meteorological information: severe weather, homeland security, air quality, climate, and water quality. He provided urban zone examples of property and lives lost as well as populations at risk within the context of these five focus areas.

Mr. Williamson next posed the question, “Why have an Urban Meteorology Forum now?” He stated that the need for such a forum is based on:

- (1) Escalating demands/competition for urban resources.
- (2) Advancements in science and technology which can substantially improve the accuracy and utility of weather and climate information in urban decision processes.
- (3) An opportunity for better integration of multidisciplinary research to address urban weather and climate issues/concerns.

Mr. Williamson concluded his introduction by charging the Forum participants with:

- (1) Identifying better ways to integrate, apply, and deliver weather and climate science and technology to urban decision makers and to reduce high impact weather and climate risk.
- (2) Focusing on the relationship of natural hazards to urban ecosystems and their management and facilitating the transfer of emerging science and technology.
- (3) Promoting close collaboration and integration of multidisciplinary research to address weather and climate impacts on urban communities and improving forecasting for coastal and complex terrain areas.

(4) Elevating the level of concern on priorities needed for funding research and application of science and technology on urban weather and climate problems/issues.

A complete summary of the Forum, as well as Mr. Williamson's remarks, can be found on the OFCM web site: [www.ofcm.gov](http://www.ofcm.gov).