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CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

PRESS RELEASE:
For immediate release

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Tybee Island Awarded Enhanced Community Rating by FEMA

Tybee Island, Ga. – (December 7, 2007) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently awarded the City of Tybee Island an upgrade to its classification under the Community Rating System (CRS) which is part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The floodplain management policies, which the City is continuing to improve, have resulted in a Class 7 rating, which gives residents up to a 15% discount in flood insurance premiums on renewals after the effective date of October 1, 2007.

After returning from the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD, Tybee Emergency Management Agency director Jimmy Brown began to work toward the rating improvement by creating new communications and records policies, distributing information to citizens via mail, the Internet, and the local branch of Live Oaks Public Library, and working with the Zoning Department staff to provide flood protection packets for builders and remodelers on the Island. These policies also include efforts to keep up-to-date elevation certificates on file for all new and improved buildings, community maps, approved educational outreach programs, risk disclosure by realtors, flood advice and assistance for the community, maintenance of open space areas, storm water management, and advance warning systems, among other factors. The documentation and processes are coordinated by TEMA and require cooperation amongst several different City departments in record-keeping and emergency planning efforts.

"I am so proud of our city staff for taking the initiative on making Tybee a safer and more affordable place to live and work," noted Tybee's Mayor Jason Buelterman. "A 15% reduction in flood insurance premiums is a huge benefit for our home owners."

The City of Tybee Island's Tybee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) makes year-round efforts to keep citizens apprised of emergency procedures, and risks associated with hurricanes, floods, and other potential natural or man-made disasters via outbound communications in written, electronic, and broadcast media. Visit the City's web site at www.cityoftybee.org.

Information about FEMA can be found at www.fema.gov, about the Community Rating System at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shtm>, and about flood preparations at www.floodsmart.gov.

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