NEWS RELEASE

JUDGE EMMETT KEYNOTE SPEAKER
AT GLOBAL RESILIENCE RESEARCH NETWORK SUMMIT
Summit Featured 24 International Experts
To Share Expertise On Preparing For And Responding to Disasters

BOSTON – Harris County Judge Ed Emmett was the keynote speaker for the first-ever Global Resilience Research Network summit last week, a two-day session sponsored by Northeastern University's Global Resilience Institute to devise effective ways to respond to and rebound from disasters.

Emmett, who has led Harris County's emergency response efforts in several recent disasters, including hurricanes Ike and Harvey, joined disaster response experts from Israel, Chile, China, Germany, Great Britain and 10 other countries in Boston on March 29 and 30.

The summit brought together nearly 200 leaders from major universities, government and research institutes around the globe to share expertise and forge collaborative efforts to meet the world's most daunting resilience challenges. The conference focused on four areas of resilience: public awareness, system design, incentives, and governance.

In his keynote address, Emmett told the gathering that Harris County quickly revised many of its development regulations after Harvey dumped an unprecedented 50+ inches of rain on the area in four days.

"The time to make major changes is immediately," Emmett said. "You need to act while there's a strong will to change. We had no pushback to our proposal, but if we had waited, it would have been much harder."

Emmett revealed what he described as his formula for resiliency: (2P+2R) (PPR) = Resilience. He said the formula meant that true resilience is Prevention and Preparation plus Response and Recovery multiplied by the effectiveness of Policies, Priorities and Resources.

"For a community to be truly resilient, all of these elements must work together. None of them can ever be finished, because we live in a dynamic world."