



## Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon  
71 Main Street, Building #1  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: May 31, 2019**

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# Cybersecurity and Preparedness Informational Session Sponsored By Hunterdon County

Municipal officials and Public-School representatives from throughout Hunterdon County gathered for another of the County Planning Board's Breakfast Information Sessions on Wednesday, May 15, for an overview of cybersecurity and, in particular, the threat to municipalities.

Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders Director Suzanne Lagay was in attendance, and in opening comments, said, "Cybersecurity incidents are on the rise in school systems and public entities where budget and staffing might pose an issue. Educating ourselves and others on how to avoid and/or identify electronic predators is the best line defense. Knowing what to do should an incident occur is the next most important action to take."

Sponsored by the Hunterdon County Planning Board, cybersecurity experts from the New Jersey Cybersecurity and Preparedness Team provided practical strategies and tactics to help governmental entities and school districts become more resilient to cybersecurity incidents.

The session presenters included Kevin Kearns from NJ Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell, Peter Brady from the NJ Risk Management Bureau and Lt. Gary Brandt from the NJ State Police. The team outlined the State monitoring and integrated communication structure which provided attendees with a sense of confidence regarding the comprehensive tracking system.

During the session it was made clear that everyone is at risk and tips were given to avoid cyber-attacks such as creating strong passwords, deleting unfamiliar emails, ignoring email requests or unsolicited phone requests for personal or financial information, avoiding entering sensitive information into a website without verifying its legitimacy and being skeptical of any request with a sense of urgency.



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Further details from the Informational Session, including the PowerPoint presentations, can be found at the Hunterdon County Planning Board Website: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/planning.htm>.

The County Planning Board hosts two "Breakfast Information Sessions" each year, Spring and Fall, on topics of vital importance to municipal leaders, farmers, builders and on issues effecting land policy. For more information on these events, feel free to visit the Planning Board Website, email [planning@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:planning@co.hunterdon.nj.us) or call 908-788-1490.