

October 24, 2019

The Honorable Melissa McKinlay  
Commissioner, Palm Beach County  
President-Elect, Florida Association of Counties  
301 N. Olive Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Re: Firefighter Bunker Gear & Equipment Donation

Dear Commissioner McKinlay,

On behalf of the Treasure Cay Community Foundation, please accept this letter as a formal request for immediate assistance. As you know, the Bahamas was struck by the devastating power of Hurricane Dorian over Labor Day Weekend earlier this year. Communities were completely demolished and recovery will be excruciating and long. We want to thank our sister communities in Florida for the outpouring of support and hope that you, in your leadership role with the Florida Association of Counties, will share our gratitude with all Florida counties.

Treasure Cay Community Foundation is a Florida not for profit corporation recognized as a community foundation under the 501(c)(3) Section of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code. TCCF's mailing address is 990 Old Dixie Highway, Suite 14, Lake Park, FL 33403-2325.

Our request to Florida's counties today is dire. Our local fire departments were completely destroyed, and we must rebuild not only the physical departments but also the workforce. To that end, we are seeking a donation of surplus firefighting bunker gear and related equipment for the purposes of training new volunteer firefighters.

The immediate needs we have are as follows:

Fully equipped Pumper apparatus, Ambulance, Support or other Emergency Response Vehicles, Bunker gear (boots, pants, suspenders, coat, gloves, Nomex hood and helmet), hand equipment (including axes, sledgehammers, Halligan bar, pike pole, flashlights, 2-way radios, etc.) Extrication Equipment (jaws of life, power source, spreaders, etc.) Any and all clean up gear (brooms, shovels, rakes, etc.) Flood lights and generators.

We are very grateful for your consideration of our request and your commitment to sharing this with all of Florida's 67 counties. The fire departments in the Bahamas we are hoping to help are all volunteers who are in great need of training and the equipment to conduct such. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



**Victor Strimbu, Jr., Interim Acting Chair**