

Memorandum



Agenda Item No. 2(B)(2)
May 5, 2020

Date: February 26, 2020
To: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
From: Carlos A. Gimenez 
Mayor
Subject: Leave Donations to the Disaster Relief Fund for Hurricane Dorian - Directive 192227

On Wednesday, September 4, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. R-883-19, sponsored by Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, to allow County employees to donate the value accrued holiday and annual leave time to the County's Emergency Disaster Relief Fund for use towards Hurricane Dorian relief efforts. The resolution further directed the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to evaluate options for the donated funds and provide a recommendation to the Board.

Hurricane Dorian

Hurricane Dorian, the second most powerful Atlantic hurricane on record, smashed into the Bahamas and for 40 hours lashed Grand Bahama, the Abacos and other smaller northern islands with winds of up to 180 mph and more, 40 inches of rain and 20-foot storm surge. At the time of the disaster, it was determined that thousands of homes and businesses were destroyed and entire communities were reported as "wiped out". Aid agencies concluded that tens of thousands of people would need support well into the future.

Recommendation

In accordance with the directive, I authorized employee contributions of earned annual and holiday leave time for the purpose of hurricane relief efforts. Miami-Dade County employees answered the call to assist and donated a total net contribution of \$72,660.88.

Because the devastation caused from this hurricane still lingers, I believe it is important to provide contributions where they will have the most impact to those affected by this disaster. Of the various organizations that provided assistance and continue to, Sol Relief, Inc. has been very engaged and instrumental in responding to the various relief needs resulting from the Hurricane Dorian. This organization's mission is to "engage the aviation community to serve areas impacted by disasters and humanitarian crisis by transporting critical supplies, aid workers and offer evacuations in areas of need." In advance of the hurricane hitting the Bahamas, they began organizing what would become their largest relief effort to date, working with partner organizations to strategically position supplies to ensure immediate and critical needs would be met after the hurricane. Their relief and recovery efforts included but were not limited to reconnaissance flights, transportation of relief and medical supplies, logistics and technician teams, as well as government officials and aid workers, all at no cost.

Additionally, Sol Relief, Inc. partnered with other organizations to provide holiday gifts to children and the elderly during the last Christmas holidays. They have provided resources for home repair and living expenses for a number of families and anticipated that projects of a similar scope will continue well into the future, to extend to new home construction. As such, I recommend that these donations be given to the Sol Relief, Inc.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. Should you require any information about the donations, please contact Edward Marquez, Deputy Mayor, at 305-375-1451.

Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
Page 2

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