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December 12, 2018

VIA EMAIL and MAIL

Florida Redevelopment Association
Mrs. Carol Westmoreland
P. O. Box 1757
301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757
cwestmoreland@flcities.com

RE: local impact of Hurricane Michael

Dear Carol:

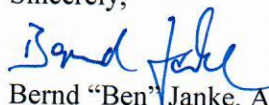
You may have heard in the News, that Northwest Florida and specifically Lynn Haven have been impacted by Hurricane Michael a few weeks ago. The City of Lynn Haven has been truly blessed during that time since none of our residents lost their lives because of the storm. However, the entire public and business infrastructure in the City and the CRA was severely damaged. Many homes and almost all commercial properties within the City limits received some damage, about 20% of the Lynn Haven businesses are still closed two months after the storm.

Our 170 First Responders, City, and CRA Staff are doing an outstanding job rebuilding our community and assisting the residents and businesses with the recovery process. However, recovering from this event feels like running a marathon for the first time without any previous training. If you have experienced a major hurricane before, you probably know what I'm talking about. We're noticing that employees are getting emotionally and physically exhausted. They have to take a break from everything so they can recharge their batteries allowing them to continue to serve our residents.

A lot of people have been asking me how they can help during those difficult times. So, I'm sending you this letter with the request to please forward this message to our CRA peers across the State to see if any of *their* contacts would consider sponsoring some 2-3 night stays at a resort or hotel for our First Responders, CRA and City staff. The opportunity to relax for a few days would certainly help our staff rebuild their strength!

Thanks in advance for your consideration and please give me a call at 850.814.3840 or email me at bjanke@cityoflynnhaven.com should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Bernd "Ben" Janke, AICP
CRA Director
Lynn Haven CRA

Cc: Michael White, City of Lynn Haven City Manager