

ITEM #30

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
10:00 A.M. REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
COMMISSIONER LAMARCA**



3730 Coconut Creek Pkwy., Suite 200
Coconut Creek, FL 33066
Phone 954.984.0075 Fax 954.984.4905
www.abceastflorida.com

**Florida East Coast
Chapter**

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Barbara Sharief
Broward County Commission
115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 437C
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: Waiving Permit and Related Fees

Dear Mayor Sharief,

Thank you, on behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors Florida East Coast Chapter for your consideration of Item Number 30 on the Commission Agenda for September 26th. Your willingness to discuss the waiving of certain fees relating to rebuild efforts sends a message to those impacted by Irma that you care about how the rebuild and repair their properties.

Whether it was residential or commercial, personal or professional, Hurricane Irma damaged property. We are now faced with the situation where individual homeowners and small business owners may have to rebuild or repair at a level not previously considered. And while insurance and related government programs can assist in covering these costs, the process of repairing and rebuilding after an unprecedented storm can be overwhelming.

It is important to note that contractors do not pay permit fees – owners do. Owners who are fearful of overall costs or frustrated with rebuild timelines can be tempted to work with unlicensed contractors who offer to rebuild cheaper, faster, off the books and with no protection to the owner.

By temporarily waiving permit fees you are taking a step to encourage owners to contract with licensed contractors, to utilize the services of local building departments, and to manage their repair and rebuild efforts in a way that can be tracked and that offers them protection.

Please know that we understand and appreciate the fact that you would be waiving fees that support the very services we encourage owners to utilize. But we also know that the alternative – utilizing unscrupulous and unlicensed contractors – benefits no one.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Bowen
Vice President of Government Affairs