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RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING PRESIDENT TRUMP TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ("DOD") RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOVERY EFFORTS IN PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS; APPROVING THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMP SETTING OUT THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL DOD RESOURCES; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2017, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands endured a direct impact from Hurricane Maria, which devastated the islands causing significant power outages and destroying major infrastructure, including telecommunication and transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, two weeks prior to being impacted by Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands had endured a direct impact from Hurricane Irma, which, like Hurricane Maria, impacted the islands as a major hurricane causing severe damage to the islands; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the devastation caused by Hurricanes Maria and Irma, over 3.6 million American citizens have been affected, many cut off from the larger community without access to basic supplies and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense ("DOD") has numerous assets that could assist in the recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

1 WHEREAS, to date, the scale of DOD assets supporting the operation is
2 inadequate to address the needs of the U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin
3 Islands, NOW, THEREFORE,

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5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
6 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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8 Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida
9 ("Board") urges President Donald Trump to further mobilize the DOD to immediately
10 deploy additional assets in support of Puerto Rican and U.S. Virgin Islands recovery
11 efforts.

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13 Section 2. The Board urges the deployment of life-saving military capabilities
14 that would otherwise be unavailable to the relief effort including deployment of the USS
15 Abraham Lincoln and an increase in personnel to assist local law enforcement.

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17 Section 3. The Board approves the letter to President Trump signed by all
18 available Commissioners outlining the need for additional resources, attached to this
19 Resolution as Attachment 1.

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21 Section 4. The Board authorizes transmission of this Resolution to President
22 Donald J. Trump, and White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 409 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7000 • FAX 954-357-7360

October 3, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On September 20th, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands endured a direct impact from Hurricane Maria, the most severe Category 5 storm to hit those islands in over 80 years. With winds up to 160 mph, Hurricane Maria devastated these islands, caused significant power outages, destroyed telecommunications infrastructure, hospitals, roadways and access to drinking water, and thereby paralyzed the region. Given the impact of the damage and the population of 3.6 million American citizens affected, we are concerned that federal efforts to date have been insufficient to address the severity of the situation. We know there are Department of Defense (DOD) elements helping today, and all the service members involved are working very hard, but we are concerned that the scale of DOD assets supporting the operation are inadequate. Thus, we write to urge you to further mobilize the DOD to immediately deploy additional assets in support of Puerto Rican and U.S. Virgin Islands recovery efforts. In addition to the senior general who is already overseeing all recovery efforts, we urge the deployment of life-saving military capabilities that would otherwise be unavailable to the relief effort, deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln, and an increase in personnel to assist local law enforcement.

When a hurricane hits in the continental United States, you can send massive aid via roads, the National Guard can arrive from neighboring states, and people can leave the affected area. None of that is true here. There is no National Guard Navy, and more than 3.6 million American citizens are isolated and unable to access the most basic supplies. The U.S. military has unique capabilities that can help alleviate this situation, and the President must exercise the proper leadership to make that happen."

3.6 million American citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are facing a dire humanitarian crisis. Senior citizens medical needs are not being met due to power outages and children who are suffering from extreme heat in the crowded airport and families are still unable to contact their loved ones. These are matters of life and death. Every second in this effort counts and the stakes are too high for further delay, inaction or inefficiency.

As you know, the DOD has additional capabilities that could help alleviate suffering in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and prevent this catastrophe from worsening. In both Puerto

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Mark D. Bogen • Beam Furr • Steve Geller • Dale V.C. Holness • Chip LaMarca • Nan H. Rich • Tim Ryan • Barbara Sharief • Michael Udine

www.broward.org

Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, there are numerous municipalities that are inaccessible from the ground, which is where DOD engineer and aviation assets would be most helpful. With millions of U.S. citizens stranded in remote areas without basic necessities, engineers are needed first to clear the roads. Additional aviation assets are needed to get relief supplies to isolated locations. Additionally, substantial ground and air logistics support is required to get aid to the islands, rescue stranded citizens, and provide them with supplies and thereafter assist with the restoration of power and telecommunications infrastructure if needed. To fulfill DOD's mission, we believe the aircraft carrier, USS Abraham Lincoln, should be sent to the region, similar to its deployment to Miami following Hurricane Irma.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has indicated it has "provided more than 1.5 million meals, 1.1 million liters of water, nearly 300 infant and toddler kits, and nearly 12,000 emergency roofing kits to the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria's landfall." While these meals and resources are profoundly needed, unfortunately, there is a large portion of the population that has been underserved.

Lastly, DOD has critical resources that could assist with addressing security issues. We have heard reports that the ongoing supply shortages are causing looting and crime. We were recently informed of armed gangs ransacking a warehouse that distributes food and supplies. DOD personnel could provide essential support to local law enforcement in both Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to ensure relief supplies are delivered to those most in need- and that those that have already been immensely devastated by the hurricane, do not need to fear for their lives when filling up their gas at the pump or securing food for their family.

We thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

_____	_____	_____
Mayor	Vice-Mayor	Commissioner
_____	_____	_____
Commissioner	Commissioner	Commissioner
_____	_____	_____
Commissioner	Commissioner	Commissioner