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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

May 12, 2015

Mr. Brian Kamoie, Assistant Administrator
DHS/FEMA/Grants Program Preparedness
Tech World Building – 9th Floor South Tower
800 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20472-3620

Application No. EMW-2014-FH-00135

Dear Mr. Kamoie,

As Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus please allow me to express support for the Clifton, New Jersey Fire Department's application for funding pursuant to the US Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response.

The Clifton Fire Department is in dire need of hiring 11 firefighters that due to economic reason and attrition cannot be replaced. In 2009 and 2010, 17 positions were eliminated: twelve firefighters were laid off, two fire officers were demoted and five positions were eliminated. The Clifton Fire Department needs the positions requested in this application to properly staff the fire department companies and basic life support ambulances.

All eleven positions that have been requested are to staff operational companies. The Clifton Fire Department responds to almost 20,000 calls annually; the city needs to properly staff its fire company in order to achieve its goals of protecting life and property. The department has reached an all-time low, struggling on a daily basis to staff its fire companies and ambulances. This grant would allow the department to maintain a basic level of service for both fire and emergency medical services.

Throughout my 18 years in the United States House of Representative, I have fought at every opportunity to make sure our firefighters have the resources they need to protect our citizens and their personal property. As author of the FIRE Act, I understand that fire departments such as Clifton's are an integral part of our emergency management system and require our utmost respect and assistance in their time of need. The urgency for the City of Clifton's safety cannot be overstated because it is only a matter of time before the use of these outdated and below standard equipment compromises the lives of our firefighters and citizens.

I urge you to give careful consideration to the grant application from the Clifton Fire Department and to fund this request to the greatest extent possible, within all applicable rules and guidelines. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Pascrell, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "P".

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Member of Congress