

BILL PASCRELL, JR.
9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY



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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

December 11, 2014

Mr. Brian E. Kamoie
Assistant Administrator, Grants Programs Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency – 9th Floor, North Tower
800 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

*Application No. EMW-2014-FO-01134

Dear Mr. Kamoie,

As the Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am pleased to offer my wholehearted support for an application that the Kearny Fire Department has submitted to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This application is requesting funding to acquire a new supply of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). **This application is one of my top priorities for funding in 2014 in the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.**

Kearny has been declared a distressed city by the State of New Jersey with a population density of over 20,000 per square mile, putting them in one of the highest percentages in the nation. Furthermore, due to their close proximity to New York City, the Department of Homeland Security classified Kearny as an area of critical infrastructure. In the event that Kearny's critical infrastructure is put at risk by fire or other disastrous incidents, there is substantial potential of debilitating effects, and therefore, the Kearny Fire Department needs to be fully prepared. However, the Kearny Fire Department lacks the most essential and basic gear. Kearny Fire Department's current Self Contained Breathing Apparatus is 18 years old, of which only a few have heads up air display, some are not CBRNE compliant and none have integrated PASS alarms. It is imperative that the Kearny Fire Department acquire a new supply of SCBA's to provide the necessary aid to its citizens and community without compromising the safety of their firefighters. A successful application to this grant is critical to giving the Kearny Fire Department the equipment it needs to fight fires safely.

Throughout my 16 years in the United States House of Representative, I have fought at every opportunity to make sure our firefighters have the equipment, vehicles, training, and other resources they need to protect our citizens and their personal property. As the author of the

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original FIRE Act, I understand that fire departments such as Kearny'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 Kearny'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 am pleased to support the Kearny Fire Department's application and respectfully ask that you look favorably upon their request, within the boundaries of applicable rules and guidelines. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Pascrell, Jr." in a cursive style.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress