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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January 24, 2022

Mr. Christopher Logan
Acting Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Grant Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security / FEMA
400 C Street S.W., 3N
Washington, D.C. 20472-3635

*Application No. EMW-2021-FG-04705

Dear Mr. Logan,

As the Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am pleased to offer my support for the City of Englewood Fire Department's (EFD) application submitted to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. They are requesting \$170,870 in funding to acquire Emergency Vehicle training. **This application is one of my top priorities for funding in FY 2021 in the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.**

Located in Bergen County, one of the most densely populated counties in the state, the City of Englewood is an active community home to over 29,000 residents. With 11 schools, a bustling downtown, a major hospital and the Bergen Performing Arts Center, the daytime population can swell to over 40,000 people. Englewood is also at the center of several major arteries that lead to New York City, most notably Interstate Highway 95, one of the most heavily traveled roadways on the nation. A member of two major mutual aid associations, the East Bergen Firefighters Mutual Aid Association and the Mid-Bergen Mutual Aid Association, there are many critical pieces of infrastructure located within their response area. The Garden State Plaza Mall, Met Life Stadium, American Dream Mall, and the George Washington bridge all fall within the EFD's area of protection. The Englewood Fire Department is a leader in the region, and they need all the help we can offer.

The proposed training would provide Englewood firefighters with NFPA compliant training to operate emergency vehicles more effectively and safely. After a 2017 assessment by Englewood's Insurance services office, it was determined that formal vehicle training was missing among EFD firefighters. With Interstate 95 and State Highway 4 located within the City of Englewood, this training is a sensible and necessary skill. The city is right to pursue this training to ensure this shortcoming is immediately addressed. Unfortunately, current budgetary constraints preclude the department from purchasing this training without federal assistance.

Throughout my 25 years in the United States House of Representatives, 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 FIRE Act, I understand that fire departments such as Englewood's are an integral part of our emergency management system and require our utmost respect and assistance in their time of need. The City of Englewood is an area that is vulnerable to emergencies, and the urgency to provide safety for its citizens and first responders should not be overlooked.

I am pleased to support the Englewood's Fire Department 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 my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Pascrell, Jr." in a cursive script.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress