



2370 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5751  
(202) 225-5782 FAX

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

ROBERT A. ROE FEDERAL BUILDING  
200 FEDERAL PLAZA, SUITE 500  
PATERSON, NJ 07505  
(973) 523-5152  
(973) 523-0637 FAX

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

<http://pascrell.house.gov>  
[bill.pascrell@mail.house.gov](mailto:bill.pascrell@mail.house.gov)

April 1, 2019

Mr. Christopher Logan  
Acting Assistant Administrator of 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-2018-FH-00492

Dear Mr. Logan,

As Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus please allow me to express support for the City of Englewood's Fire Department's application for funding pursuant to the US Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. They are requesting a total of \$607,659 in funding. **This application is one of my top priorities for funding in 2019 in the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of New Jersey.**

The Englewood Fire Department (EFD) is in dire need of funding in order to fill four (4) firefighter positions whose vacancies were the direct result of retirement and attrition. These positions are critical as Englewood has a population of over 27,000 people, which increases by over 10,000 inhabitants during weekday business hours. Since 2015, 14 firefighters have retired, and the City of Englewood plans to recoup this loss with the hiring of 11 firefighters. Yet due to recent budgetary constraints, the City needs federal funds to hire 4 more to have 59 sworn members in total, as per the table of organization approved by the Englewood City Council in order to ensure optimal response time and effectively protect the citizens and infrastructure of Englewood.

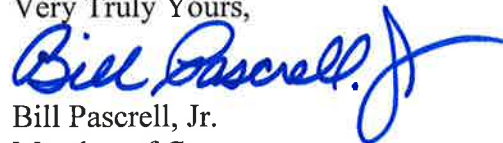
The City of Englewood's emergency service capabilities have been hamstrung to a point of great concern. For instance, current staff are often forced to work overtime due to the shortage, and first responding engines are leaving with only three members from the EFD, which is below the suggested four by the NFPA. The resources from the SAFER Grant will also allow the Englewood Fire Department to be able to properly respond to calls from the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, a 352-bed community hospital. Furthermore, the EFD has difficulty responding to mutual aid calls the training of firefighters has suffered from ineffectiveness, and firefights routinely are forced to work alone on the fire ground, due to the department's resources being overextended. In short, the brave first responders of the Englewood Fire Department are tasked with doing far more with far less.

If awarded the funding, the Englewood Fire Department will be given the necessary resources to maintain a strong firefighting unit. Not only are these positions required to bring greater compliance to NFPA regulations 1710 and 1720, but the additional workforce will greatly help with faster response times to those who are in distress.

Throughout my 22 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 Englewood'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 Englewood's safety cannot be overstated, because 15 years after EFD increased minimum staffing it remains one of the lowest staffed departments in the county. Approval of funding for the EFD will be monetarily economical for the community, and increased staff members, as well as faster response time, will create a more secure environment for all.

I urge you to give careful consideration to the grant application from the Englewood 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." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress