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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 20, 2020

Ms. Bridget Bean  
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-2019-FG-09333

Ms. Bean,

As the Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am pleased to offer my support for the application that the Prospect Park Fire Department (PPFD) has submitted to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This application is requesting 708,298.00 in funding to acquire a new Front-Line Type 1 Engine and twenty-five new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). **This application is one of my top priorities in FY 2019 in the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of New Jersey.**

The Borough of Prospect Park is tasked with protecting a K-8 public school building, a private Islamic K-8 school, a 60-acre defunct rock quarry and numerous houses of worship. In addition, Prospect Park Fire Department responds to a 33 square mile mutual aid jurisdiction that encompasses six municipalities, including Paterson, the third largest city in the State of New Jersey. Other pieces of critical infrastructure include major state and federal roadways such as Interstate 80, NJ Route 19, US-46, and the Garden State Parkway. St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, one of the busiest hospitals in Passaic County, and William Paterson University fall well within their mutual aid zone. With a call volume that has doubled in the last three years, the PPFD must receive the equipment they request.

At the present time, the Prospect Park Fire Department uses SCBA equipment that is no longer NFPA compliant, which is a direct concern for the safety of PPFD's firefighters. Expensive to replace, the current SCBA equipment will, according to their technician, no longer be repairable. Furthermore, PPFD is currently using a fire engine that is in excess of twenty years of age. These two factors cause a great deal of concern and should not be a limiting factor in a firefighter's ability to safely perform their job. With current budgetary constraints, the Borough of Prospect Park does not have the financial ability to purchase the equipment that plays a key role in their ability to serve.

Throughout my 23 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 Prospect Park's are an integral part of our emergency management system and require our utmost respect and assistance in their time of need. The Borough of Prospect Park 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 Prospect Park 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 my office.

Sincerely,

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

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress