

Resolution No.: 15-1129
Introduced: September 6, 2005
Adopted: September 6, 2005

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: County Council

SUBJECT: County Support for Recovery from Hurricane Katrina

Background

1. Daily reports from southern Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama confirm that communities there have experienced one of the greatest natural disasters in the nation's history. The human suffering, measured in loss of life, homes, workplaces, and basic services, is massive and continuing. Nearly a million residents of New Orleans, Biloxi, Gulfport, and other communities have been displaced. Restoration of those communities will take months and years, and for some communities may not be possible at all.
2. In past disasters at home and abroad, resources from Montgomery County have been a vital part of the national response. For example, in 1989 the County deployed public safety and other personnel to help the City of Charleston, South Carolina recover from the devastation of Hurricane Hugo, and Montgomery County Public Schools helped to re-equip a Charleston school that had been badly damaged. In 1992 the County mobilized to assist victims of Hurricane Andrew in Florida.
3. In the current disaster as well, resources from Montgomery County have played a vital role. County residents have contributed generously to disaster relief organizations. A 34-member group from the County's nationally recognized Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) has been assisting victims in Waveland, Mississippi, and another 11 Fire and Rescue personnel are also on the ground in Mississippi. Additional fire and rescue personnel, as well as equipment and apparatus, have been deployed to New Orleans, and the County's second USAR team is awaiting deployment orders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Montgomery County Public Schools is expediting admission of children whose families have taken refuge in the County with family or friends. Other County agencies are determining ways to provide similar assistance.

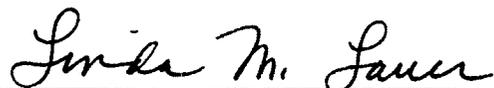
Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council commends County residents and County personnel, in our Fire and Rescue Service and other agencies, for the great contributions they have made, and continue to make, to help Gulf Coast communities recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

To build on these efforts, the Council, working closely with the County Executive, County agencies, State and Federal agencies, and community organizations, intends to identify a Gulf Coast community whose leaders wish to establish a partnership with the County to assist in its long-term recovery.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council