



MARIA SACHS

**Mayor
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Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners



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September 10, 2024

Senator Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Lois Frankel
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Jared Moskowitz
1130 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Rick Scott
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Brian Mast
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
242 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Palm Beach County Congressional Delegation Members:

In Fiscal Year 2017, after the Presidential election, Palm Beach County and New York City worked with the members of the Florida and New York Congressional delegations (in Florida, specifically US Senator Rubio and Congresswoman Frankel), to create the Presidential Residence Protection Assistance Grant (PRRAG).

Palm Beach County, in coordination with the City of New York, worked cooperatively to create the first of its kind program that allowed the federal government to reimburse state and local governments for law enforcement related costs associated with protecting the non-governmental residences of the President of the United States. During the first year of the program in 2017, \$41,000,000 was appropriated for this program. Subsequently, that same amount was appropriated in each of the next three fiscal years. More recently, in 2021, \$12,700,000 was appropriated and in FY22 and FY23, \$3,000,000 was appropriated for each of those years. (See attachment A for first NOFA issued in 2017 for the PRRAG program).

In addition, the Department of Justice provided funding prior to the creation of this program to reimburse Palm Beach County for costs associated with the same expenses until the new program was implemented.

In July 2024, in reviewing security measures surrounding nominees for President of the United States after the assassination attempt of former President Donald J. Trump, decisions were made by the United States Secret Service (USSS) to enhance the level of security around the Palm Beach County home of the former President and current Republican nominee for President.

Enhanced Security

Due to increased security measure protocols by the USSS, extraordinary measures for security are being implemented in Palm Beach County ahead of the 2024 November General Election to protect non-governmental residences and protected person(s) as designated by the USSS. This increased security has involved a number of local law enforcement and fire rescue personnel and equipment from multiple agencies.

Costs Related to Extraordinary Protective Measures Provided by Local law Enforcement and Fire Rescue

Palm Beach Sheriff Office (PBSO)

In an effort to plan for the balance of the current fiscal year which ends on September 30th and the beginning of the 2024/25 fiscal year, Palm Beach County has reviewed operations over the past month and is providing an estimate of the amount of funding required to protect the residence and any other movement of the Presidential nominee as requested by the USSS and other appropriate federal agencies. In order to maintain that level of security and to ensure proper budgeting by the county and other agencies, the following is requested by the federal government to meet these new security standards.

The cost of PBSO law enforcement resources is about \$93,000/day on average. The Trump detail began July 20, 2024. Information compiled on overtime expenses for time worked through August 18, 2024 allows us to estimate overtime of \$2.8 million for this 30 day period. Assuming the average daily expense per day in overtime costs for the remaining 43 days to fiscal year end, PBSO would incur another \$4 million in expenses for a total of \$6.8 million.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Fire Rescue has been asked to provide additional protective measures during motorcades and other times; their services were not included for reimbursement in the PRRAG program language. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue is requested to engage their services primarily when the former President is in residence and while a local motorcade is mobilizing and in transit. The estimated expense to provide for this service includes staffing, administration and logistics. So far this year, PBCFR has participated in 27 Dignitary Detail events with the average duration lasting approximately 6.28 hours. The total average hours of overtime is approximately 19 staff hours per event with the total average hours of staff time to support each event being 8.25 hours. The total cost of these trips for 2024 is \$42,720. (See Attachment B for actual costs expended for fire rescue services during 2019).

Town of Palm Beach

The Town of Palm Beach is providing law enforcement and fire rescue resources as well. The combined expenditure for these services is approximately \$3600/day and those costs increase depending on whether individuals requiring protection are in town. The Police Department incurs costs related to staffing the command post 24/7 as well as responding to demonstrations near the residence.

Other Costs Associated with New Security Standards

Extraordinary Protection Requests for Visiting Dignitaries

Since the implementation of new protective measures at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach and surrounding roadway networks, additional extraordinary protective measures have been requested related to visiting dignitaries when the Presidential nominee is in residence. If it is expected that more of these types of visits will be anticipated, reimbursements related to costs borne by state and local law enforcement and fire rescue agencies would also be requested.

Traffic Mitigation

In an effort to mitigate traffic impacts related to extraordinary closures of roads related to USSS initiated protective measures, federal resources are requested to offset those costs, which include signage, law enforcement and other local engineering resources.

As you can see, our local governments are incurring significant expenses in safety and protective measures related to recent changes implemented by federal government agencies. These services are not covered for reimbursement under the existing PRRAG program. We respectfully request your assistance in securing additional funds to assist our local agencies during this period.

Sincerely,



Maria Sachs, Mayor
Palm Beach County



Ric Bradshaw, Sheriff
Palm Beach County



Danielle Moore, Mayor
Town of Palm Beach

cc: Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Attachment A

Attachment B

**NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AND APPLICATION AVAILABILITY
FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2017 PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE PROTECTION
ASSISTANCE (PRPA) GRANT**

Dear Colleagues:

This serves as notification that the application period for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 **Presidential Residence Protection Assistance (PRPA) Grant** will open on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. EDT and close on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

The *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2017* (Pub. L. No. 115-31), provides \$41 million for the Presidential Residence Protection Assistance Grant.

Under the **Presidential Residence Protection Assistance Grant**, Federal funds will be awarded to reimburse state and local law enforcement agencies for law enforcement personnel costs incurred while protecting any non-governmental residence of the President of the United States that is designated or identified to be secured by the United States Secret Service (USSS) in accordance with Section 544 of the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2017*.

Awards will be made on a rolling basis. Awards may be made as early as September 30, 2017. FEMA anticipates that all awards will be made no later than December 31, 2017.

Eligible applicants are limited to state and local law enforcement agencies, either directly or through the State Administrative Agency, that conducted protection activities associated with any non-governmental residence of the President designated or identified to be secured by the USSS. The states with qualifying residences are Florida, New Jersey, and New York.

Attachment B: Actual Costs for Palm Beach County Fire Rescue During 2019

<i>Date</i>	<i>Unit/Position</i>	<i>Hours/Cost</i>
March 8, 2019 Visit		
<i>Staffing Cost</i>		
3/8/2019	Rescue 701	21
3/9/2019	Rescue 701	26
3/10/2019	Rescue 701	22
Hours		69
<i>*Staffing Cost</i>		\$4,623.00
<i>**Administrative & Logistics Cost</i>	Staff Captain	\$900.00
<i>***Vehicle/Equipment Cost</i>		\$3,070.50
Total		\$8,593.50
*Average hourly rate for Staffing Cost = \$69.00 per hour		
**Administrative & Logistics Cost: Advancement meeting(s), IAP development, Communications, Supervising responsibilities, Logistics, and tracking = \$90.00 per hour		
***Vehicle/Equipment Cost = \$44.50 per hour		

March 22, 2019 Visit		
<i>Staffing Cost</i>		
3/22/2019	Rescue 701	30
3/23/2019	Rescue 223	0
3/24/2019	Rescue 701	11.5
3/28/2019	Rescue 701	9
3/29/2019	Rescue 701	18
3/30/2019	Rescue 701	23
3/31/2019	Rescue 701	22.5
Hours		114
<i>*Staffing Cost</i>		\$7,638.00
<i>**Administrative & Logistics Cost</i>	Staff Captain	\$900.00
<i>***Vehicle/Equipment Cost</i>		\$5,073.00
Total		\$13,611.00
*Average hourly rate for Staffing Cost = \$69.00 per hour		
**Administrative & Logistics Cost: Advancement meeting(s), IAP development, Communications, Supervising responsibilities, Logistics, and tracking = \$90.00 per hour		
***Vehicle/Equipment Cost = \$44.50 per hour		

November 26, 2019 Visit		
11/26/2019	Rescue 701	27.75
11/27/2019	Rescue 701	36
11/28/2019	Rescue 701	14.5
11/29/2019	Rescue 223	3
	Rescue 701	44.25
11/30/2019	Rescue 701	33
12/1/2019	Rescue 701	42
12/1/2019	Rescue 28	0
Hours		172.75
*Staffing Cost		\$13,433.50
**Administrative b& Logistics Cost	Staff Captain	\$900.00
***Vehicle/Equipment Cost		\$7,687.38
Total		\$22,020.88
*Average hourly rate for Staffing Cost = \$69.00 per hour		
**Administrative & Logistics Cost: Advancement meeting(s), IAP development, Communications, Supervising responsibilities, Logistics, and tracking = \$90.00 per hour		
***Vehicle/Equipment Cost = \$44.50 per hour		

December 20, 2019 Visit		
12/20/2019	Rescue 23	0
12/21/2019	Rescue 701	46.5
12/22/2019	Rescue 701	51.75
12/23/2019	Rescue 701	36
12/24/2019	Rescue 93	6
12/24/2019	Rescue 24	0
12/26/2019	Rescue 701	33
12/27/2019	Rescue 701	28.5
12/28/2019	Rescue 701	36
12/29/2019	Rescue 701	54
12/30/2019	Rescue 701	39
12/31/2019	Rescue 701	25.5
Hours		356.25
*Staffing Cost		\$24,581.25
**Administrative & Logistics Cost	Staff Captain	\$900.00
***Vehicle/Equipment Cost		\$15,853.13
Total		\$41,334.38
*Average hourly rate for Staffing Cost = \$69.00 per hour		
**Administrative & Logistics Cost: Advancement meeting(s), IAP development, Communications, Supervising responsibilities, Logistics, and tracking = \$90.00 per hour		
***Vehicle/Equipment Cost = \$44.50 per hour		
Annual Training Cost		\$8,000.00
2019 Grand Total Cost		\$93,559.76