



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Kevin Guthrie
Director

June 26, 2021

Kem R. Fleming, Director
U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of Disaster Assistance
Field Operations Center East
101 Marietta Street NW, Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30303-2725

Re: Request for an Administrative Declaration of
Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Event

Dear Mr. Fleming:

Under the provisions of 13 C.F.R. §123.3, I respectfully request that the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration authorize an Administrative Declaration for Miami-Dade County, Florida to provide assistance in the form of low interest physical damage loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to the citizens and business owners impacted by the City of Surfside Building Collapse.

At approximately 1:23A.M. on June 24, 2021, Champlain Towers South, a 12-story multi-family housing complex, located at 8777 Collins Avenue in Surfside, Florida experienced a major structural collapse. The cause of the collapse is unknown. Search and rescue efforts remain ongoing. At the time of this request, this event has resulted in an unknown number of fatalities, multiple injuries, and approximately 159 individuals are currently unaccounted for. A substantial portion of the building has been destroyed and the remainder of the structure has been rendered uninhabitable, displacing 136 households and dozens more in surrounding buildings which have been evacuated due to safety concerns.

On June 24, 2021, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 21-148 which directed the State Coordinating Officer to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in support of the Order in accordance with Section 501 of the Stafford Act. Subsequently, the President of the United States issued an Emergency Declaration for Miami-Dade County, authorizing Public Assistance Categories A (Debris Removal) and B (Emergency Protective Measures), as well as Individual Assistance in the form of the Individuals and Households Program.

Because this Emergency Declaration does not automatically authorize disaster assistance loans through the Small Business Administration, I am requesting an Administrative Declaration to immediately provide assistance to the individuals, families, and businesses impacted by this disaster. This request is timely under 13 CFR 123.3(a)(3)(iii).

Additionally, with search and rescue operations ongoing, and many residents and homeowners unaccounted for, the State is unable to complete damage assessments at this time. However, due to the visible catastrophic damage sustained to this multi-family housing complex of 136 units, with over 50 of them completely devastated, and including destruction of all personal property contained therein, I believe the State has met the threshold for an Agency Declaration in accordance with 13 CFR 123.3(a)(3).

Sincerely,

Kevin Guthrie
Governor's Authorized Representative

Enclosed:
Letter of Appointment of Governor's Authorized Representatives (January 2021)



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

January 25, 2021

Director Kem R. Fleming
U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of Disaster Assistance
Field Operations Center East
101 Marietta NW, Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Appointment of Governor's Authorized Representative

Dear Director Fleming:

Please accept this letter as my official appointment of the following individuals as my Governor's Authorized Representative for the purpose of requesting and coordinating all aspects of the United States Small Business Administration disaster declarations for the State of Florida.

Jared Moskowitz, Esq.
Director
Florida Division of Emergency Management
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100
(850) 815-4000

Kevin Guthrie
Deputy Director
Florida Division of Emergency Management
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100
(850) 815-4101

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor

cc: Florida Division of Emergency Management