


Memorandum



Date: January 6, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
And Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava 
Mayor

Subject: Report Outlining the Costs Associated with the Surfside Tragedy –
Directive No. 211658

On July 8, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) held a meeting to discuss the Surfside Tragedy. This report is being provided in response to Commissioner Rebecca Sosa’s request to outline the costs associated with the County’s response and efforts associated with this unfortunate event.

Background

The Champlain Towers South located in the Town of Surfside collapsed in the early hours of June 24, 2021, tragically claiming the lives of 98 persons who inhabited the building. Miami-Dade County engaged in critical search and rescue efforts through Miami-Dade Fire Rescue’s Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team and Miami-Dade Police Department, who deployed its officers as well as those from partnering municipalities, including Broward Sheriff’s Office, City of Coral Gables, City of Hallandale, City of Homestead, City of Miami, City of Miami Beach, City of North Miami, and Town of Medley to the collapse site to assist with incident and perimeter security as well crowd and traffic control. They were joined by thirteen additional County Departments that provided critical support to incident operations and response, including assistance to survivors and families devastated by this unprecedented tragedy.

On the eve of June 24, 2021, Miami-Dade County declared a local emergency with Governor Ron DeSantis following suit soon thereafter. The collective actions of the County and State paved the way for approval of a Federal Emergency Declaration, number FL-3560-EM, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The declaration was vital in providing the County the opportunity to receive support for eligible expenditures directly related to the Surfside collapse. The Declaration authorized assistance for emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe at Surfside and included activation of FEMA’s Individuals and Households Program and assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance (PA) program.

In addition, the declaration brought forth access to and collaboration with a cadre of national experts from the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that continue to provide invaluable expertise in managing the structural integrity of the collapse site. FEMA, through its local, regional, and national offices, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) maintain active involvement in all aspects of the emergency’s operations and continue to provide technical assistance and guidance as needed by the County. The outpouring of support from this incredible team of professionals has been invaluable and deeply appreciated.

We were also deeply moved by President Joe Biden’s involvement and attentiveness in providing support and necessary resources to assist with all phases of this tragedy. On July 1, 2021, President Biden visited the incident site to personally pay his respects and sympathies to grieving families and survivors and to encourage the extraordinary efforts of our first responders who worked tirelessly round the clock until every victim was identified. To provide the County the maximum financial support possible to save lives and recover loved ones, President Biden waived the usual match requirement associated with the

PA program and pledged to provide 100 percent funding for the search and rescue efforts that spanned the first thirty days of the tragedy through July 23, 2021. To assist the County in drawing cash to offset expenses, an expedited project was submitted to FEMA on July 23, 2021, for \$28.2 million which allowed the County to receive a 50% payment of \$14.1 million that was received on September 7, 2021. In accordance with FEMA's Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG), the County was required to submit documentation related to the expedited project within 90 days of the Recovery Scoping Meeting or within 90 days of the work completion date, whichever is later. FEMA makes its eligibility determination based on the documentation received within the 90-day deadline. The 90-day deadline was on October 26, 2021, and the County successfully submitted payroll records, timesheets, invoices, and receipts for over \$26.2 million in costs, as detailed in the enclosed attachment (Attachment A). Upon completion of FEMA's review, the County will be able to submit reimbursement requests to FDEM, who is FEMA's grantee for the Surfside emergency, to draw down the \$12.1 million balance of the cost.

In addition to the initial 30 days project, there are twelve (12) additional projects in the damage inventory mutually approved by the County and FEMA covering all costs of the emergency through the eventual disposal of the collapse's debris. These projects have a combined estimated cost of \$31.7 million of which FEMA will cover 75 percent. The remaining 25 percent, totaling \$7.9 million will be evenly divided by the County and FDEM. This match amount will also be reduced by the value of donations received for the event, which will be quantified prior to close out of the emergency (Attachment A-1).

A completed after-action report will be forthcoming shortly.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact David Clodfelter, Director, Office of Management and Budget at 305-375-5143.

Attachments

C: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald K. Sanchez, First County Attorney
Jess M. McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
David Clodfelter, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Melissa Adames, Director, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

ATTACHMENT A
EM-3560-FL SURFSIDE BUILDING COLLAPSE
APPLICANT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PW# 240594 - Emergency Operations First 30 Days
Claim Summary

DEPARTMENT	FORCE ACCOUNT LABOR	FORCE ACCOUNT EQUIPMENT	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	RENTAL EQUIPMENT	CONTRACT COSTS	TOTAL COST	FEDERAL SHARE (100%)
Aviation	8,936.65	3,724.93	-	\$155,282.46		167,944.04	\$ 167,944.04
Communications & Customer Service	6,464.41	-	2,899.75			9,364.16	\$ 9,364.16
Community Action & Human Services (CAHSD)	10,755.17	-			12,947.92	23,703.09	\$ 23,703.09
Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)*	27,170.81	15,643.65				42,814.46	\$ 42,814.46
Elections	10,860.02	17,582.08				28,442.10	\$ 28,442.10
Information Technology Department (ITD)	118,977.48		\$3,611.93			122,589.41	\$ 122,589.41
Internal Services Department (ISD)	25,062.08	13,148.16				38,210.24	\$ 38,210.24
Medical Examiner's Office (ME)	97,401.83		\$627.53			98,029.36	\$ 98,029.36
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR)	3,960,216.75	334,792.19	43,377.90		771,398.60	5,109,785.44	\$ 5,109,785.44
Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD)	10,272,074.44	1,984,729.54			7,191,496.31	19,448,300.29	\$ 19,448,300.29
Parks Recreation & Open Spaces (PROS)	1,663.46	448.74		11,816.77		13,928.97	\$ 13,928.97
Port Miami	861.90					861.90	\$ 861.90
Regulatory & Economic Resources (RER)	159.46	387.37				546.82	\$ 546.82
Transportation & Public Works (DTPW)	40,948.01	53,502.39			398,747.45	493,197.85	\$ 493,197.85
Water & Sewer (WASD)	109,493.62	37,390.15				146,883.77	\$ 146,883.77
MUTAL AID TO MUNICIPAL PARTNERS	314,316.15	181,459.90	8,344.07			504,120.12	\$ 504,120.12
TOTAL	\$ 15,005,362.23	\$ 2,642,809.10	\$ 58,861.18	\$ 167,099.23	\$ 8,374,590.28	\$ 26,248,722.01	\$ 26,248,722.01

*Regular hours totaling costs of \$19,316.70 were claimed for DSWM's Assistant Director who was reassigned to work on the emergency.

ATTACHMENT A-1

SURFSIDE BUILDING COLLAPSE
FL-3560-EM
DAMAGE INVENTORY

Project #	Category	Title	Estimate Total Cost	Estimated Federal Share	Match (covered by County & FDEM)
334875	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Security Fencing at Incident Site	180,000.00	135,000.00	45,000.00
334856	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Retention Wall Shoring and Bracing at Incident Site	398,953.00	299,214.75	99,738.25
332926	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Restoration of Incidental Damages at the Temporary Staging Site (ESA-2)	12,370.83	9,278.13	3,092.70
332935	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Other Miami-Dade County Departments - Force Accounts after first 30 days of emergency operations	31,975.85	23,981.89	7,993.96
332921	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Mutual Aid	600,000.00	450,000.00	150,000.00
335278	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Miami-Dade County Transportation and Public Works Department - Force Accounts after first 30 days of emergency operations	830,552.22	622,914.17	207,638.05
332914	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Miami-Dade County Police Department - Force Accounts after first 30 days of operations	14,350,626.00	10,762,969.50	3,587,656.50
335284	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Miami-Dade County and their departments that are unlisted within the DI - Force Accounts after first 30 days of emergency operations	50,000.00	37,500.00	12,500.00
332919	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Miami-Dade County - Fire Rescue Department Force Accounts after first 30 days of operations	175,978.16	131,983.62	43,994.54
335280	B - Emergency Protective Measures	Decontamination Operations of Personal Property	78,000.00	58,500.00	19,500.00
332930	A - Debris Removal	Debris Staging, Hauling, Monitoring and Final Disposal	15,000,000.00	11,250,000.00	3,750,000.00
332931	A - Debris Removal	Damaged/Destroyed Vehicles Final Disposal	25,000.00	18,750.00	6,250.00
TOTAL			\$ 31,733,456.06	\$ 23,800,092.06	\$ 7,933,364.00