



UASI New Orleans

HOMELAND SECURITY

March 4, 2013

Kevin Davis
Director, Governor's Office of Homeland Security
7667 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Subject: Reduction to Parish EMPG Funding

Dear Mr. Davis,

As Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Directors of the four Greater New Orleans area parishes, we are opposed to your decision to cut Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) funding in 2013. As you well know, EMPG funds are and have been routinely sub-awarded by your office to fund critical local emergency management activities and positions that provide capabilities that cannot be funded through parish resources. Make no mistake; reducing these funds will significantly impact our ability to provide local emergency management.

Parishes are already facing difficult budget cuts, forcing them to do more with less. In this case, we will all have to do less with less. Many parishes will no longer be able to sustain current levels of emergency management capacity. Services will be reduced and jobs will be lost. Also, there is a real fear that this decision could bring emergency management in Louisiana back to pre-Katrina levels.

We also question the decision to communicate these cuts through an e-mail instead of during the recent GOHSEP Directors meeting. Everyone should be brought to the table when a decision of this magnitude is at stake.

We all understand the budget issues GOHSEP faces, but we strongly encourage you to reconsider the impact of this decision, seek input from those affected, and judge what is best to protect the people of this State. We are requesting a meeting as soon as possible with you to discuss EMPG 2013 funding. I am certain our colleagues from across the state would be eager to join us.

Jerry W. Sneed
Lt. Col. USMC (Retired)
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety
and Director, Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness
Urban Area Administrator

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Subject: Reduction in Parish Emergency Management Performance Grant Funds

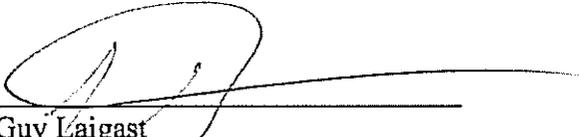
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John Rahaim

Deputy Director, Office of Homeland Security
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Director, Office of Homeland Security
Plaquemines Parish



Charles Hudson

Acting Director, Emergency Management Department
Jefferson Parish