

*Board of County Commissioners*

# **Building Fee Waiver Request for OC Long Term Recovery Group**

**January 29, 2019**



# Presentation Outline

- **Background**
- **Hurricane Irma Damage**
- **Building Fund and Fee Structure**
- **OC Long Term Recovery Group**
- **Public Purpose**
- **Requested Direction**



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# Background

- **December 4, 2019 Open Discussion**
- **Request was to reduce or eliminate building permit fees for contractors utilized by the Orange County Long Term Recovery Group (OCLTG)**
- **Shared documents related to the OCLTRG mission and their request**
- **Today's Work Session is providing additional information and requesting Board direction**



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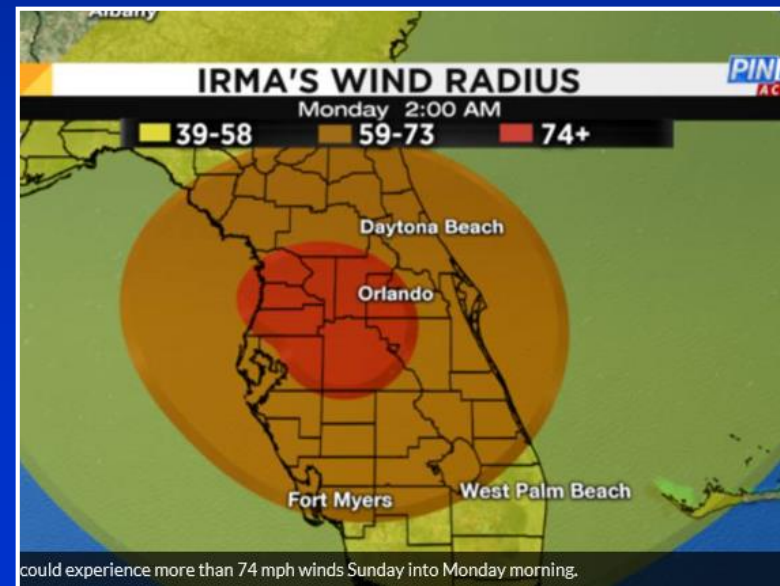
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# Hurricane Irma Damage

## ▪ Hurricane Irma

- Central Florida September 11, 2017
- Wind Speeds 75 - 85 MPH (Category 1)
- Moved up the State at 18 MPH
- Tropical Storm force winds in Orange County
- Duration approximately 3 hours (2am - 5am)





# Hurricane Irma Damage

- **Building Safety Post Hurricane Response:**
  - Gathered information from the EOC on damaged areas
  - Dispatched 12 Habitability Inspections teams to affected areas (two member teams comprised of a Building and an Electrical Inspector)
  - Performed over 4,800 assessments
  - Posted structures as Unsafe for Occupancy and/or requested power removal as needed





# Hurricane Irma Damage

- **Most common types of damage:**
  - Widespread roofing
  - Damage to electrical services
  - Interior damage cause by water intrusion
  - Extensive water damage due to flooding (Orla Vista Area)
  - Structural/Non-Structural damage from falling trees







# Hurricane Irma Damage

- **Orange County Mayor Jacobs Permit Fee Waiver:**
  - Issued under authority granted by Governor's Scott's declaration of State of Emergency
  - Permit Fee waiver was for permits required to make repairs for damage caused by Hurricane Irma
  - Duration was September 13, 2017 – January 13, 2018

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-235**  
**(Emergency Management – Hurricane Irma)**

**WHEREAS**, as of 11:00 a.m. on Monday, September 4, 2017, Hurricane Irma is a major hurricane located approximately 560 miles east of the Leeward Islands with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph;

**WHEREAS**, the five-day forecast from the National Hurricane Center predicts that, on Saturday, September 9, 2017, Hurricane Irma will be a major hurricane located somewhere north of Cuba and south of Andros Island in the Bahamas;

**WHEREAS**, current forecast models predict that Hurricane Irma will head into the Straits of Florida as a major hurricane;

**WHEREAS**, current forecast models predict that Hurricane Irma will make landfall somewhere in South Florida or Southwestern Florida as a major hurricane;

**WHEREAS**, current forecast models predict that Hurricane Irma will travel up the entire spine of Florida;

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Irma poses a severe threat to the entire State of Florida and requires that timely precautions are taken to protect the communities, critical infrastructure, and general welfare of this State;

**WHEREAS**, as Governor, I am responsible to meet the dangers presented to this state and its people by this emergency;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT**, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida



# Hurricane Irma Damage

## ▪ Statewide Permit Fee Waivers:

- Orange County 9/13/17 – 1/13/18
- City of Orlando 9/15/17 – 12/15/17
- Osceola County 9/12/17 – 12/8/17
- Lake County 9/19/17 – 12/19/17
- Brevard County 9/19/17 – 12/19/17
- Leon County 10/3/17 – 12/29/17
- Monroe County 9/10/17 – 3/24/18
- Palm Beach County 9/27/17 – 3/27/18



# Irma Fee Waiver Summary

- **Total Fees \$923,311**
  - 8,209 Re-roof Permits \$737,791
  - 135 Residential & Commercial repair permits \$13,346
  - 223 Electrical repair permits \$9,813
  - 53 Mechanical A/C change-out/repair permits \$2,202
  - 388 Zoning Permit fees \$13,492
  - Misc. permit/review fees \$157,869
- **Permit Fee waivers are non-recoverable through FEMA**



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# Building Fund and Fee Structure

- **Building Safety protects the health, safety and welfare of the citizens in unincorporated Orange County through the enforcement of the Florida Building Codes by:**
  - **Reviewing construction plans for compliance with said code**
  - **Issuing permits**
  - **Performing construction inspections**



# Building Fund and Fee Structure

- **Fee Structure for this service is:**
  - **Authorized in Florida Statute 553.79**
  - **Adopted by the Board of County Commissioners by resolution**
  - **Referenced in Orange County Code Chapter 9-6 Building and Construction Regulations**



# Building Fund and Fee Structure

- **Division of Building Safety operates similar to an Enterprise Fund as such:**
  - All revenue is generated from the issuance of permits/licenses
  - The Division receives no funding from General Fund
  - In accordance with statutory requirements all revenue is used to support the enforcement of the Florida Building Codes



# Building Fund and Fee Structure

## Typical Permits Types and Fees required for hurricane damage repair

Permit Type	Project Valuation	Permit Fee
Building	\$20,000	\$106
Re-Roof	\$10,500	\$80
Electrical	\$4,500	\$86
Mechanical AC change out	\$6,000 3.5 ton unit	\$48
Plumbing Repair/replace	\$3,500 7 fixtures	\$121





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# Long Term Recovery Groups

- **FEMA's role after a storm event**
  - Government assistance
  - Individual assistance (homeowners)
  - Engage Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs)
- **Orange County Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG)**
  - Also known as RISE Orange County
  - An organization of organizations





# Orange County LTRG

- **Not an authorized County-function or extension**
- **Non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status by the IRS**
- **Funding comes from State funds, grants from other non-profits, corporate contributions**
  - Money and materials donated



# Orange County LTRG

- **Conducted a Needs Assessment Survey in August 2018**
  - 565 residents responded
  - Unmet needs of \$6.6M
- **Orange County LTRG screens for home ownership, income, special needs, insurance**
- **Role in project management**
- **Anticipated volume**
  - 10 per month, for about 12 months
  - \$250/home x 10 homes/month x 12 months = \$30,000



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# Public Purpose

- Repairs remain for disadvantaged populations
- Repairs preserve housing stock and home affordability
- Work will be completed by licensed contractors
- These repairs would have been eligible for the fee waiver had they occurred during the prior waiver period
- Potential requests for other organizations who do similar work



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## Requested Direction

- **Any approval should establish fee waiver parameters:**
  - **Maximum permit fees subsidy (\$30,000)**
  - **End date (December 31, 2019)**
  - **Scope limited to damage repairs from Hurricane Irma**
  - **Creation of standard form/letter certifying eligibility from the OC Long Term Recovery Group**





## Requested Direction

- **Board direction regarding the payment of permit fees from the General Fund for building repairs related to Hurricane Irma coordinated by the Orange County Long Term Recovery Group. All Districts**