

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HURRICANE MATTHEW DISASTER ASSISTANCE UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (November 4, 2016) – The City of Suffolk learned on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 that Suffolk was not included in the Federal Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance (IA) related to damage suffered from Hurricane Matthew. Nine Hampton Roads localities were included in the request for Federal Disaster Assistance, and four were approved.

Deputy Fire Chief Brian Spicer, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Suffolk stated the following, “We are disappointed that we didn’t receive the Declaration. We are currently working through the appeals process and are encouraging Suffolk citizens and businesses that experienced any damage from Hurricane Matthew to immediately contact Planning & Community Development at 757.514.4150 so that their impact can also be included in the appeals process. If we are not made aware of these damages, our submission figures aren’t complete and may have a bearing on future determinations.”

While the City of Suffolk wasn’t included in the FEMA declaration, the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) notes that small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in several counties and independent cities adjacent to North Carolina, including the City of Suffolk, are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. As it relates to the SBA filing deadline, the date to return applications for economic injury applications is July 10, 2017.

We have previously advised that the City of Suffolk Assessor's Office wants property owners to know they may be eligible for a reduction in tax levies if buildings were razed, destroyed or damaged by the recent storm associated with Hurricane Matthew. The reduction in tax levies is allowable if destruction or damage is equal to or exceeds \$500 in the value of the building.

Also, no reduction in tax levies is allowed unless the destruction or damage renders the building unfit for use and occupancy for thirty days or more during the calendar year.

Property owners may contact the Assessor's office at 757-514-7475, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., for answers to questions and further assistance.

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