



The Landings Association

November 2, 2016

Chairman Albert J. Scott
Chatham County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 8161
Savannah, GA 31412

Dear Chairman Scott,

On behalf of The Landings Association and the entire Landings community, this letter provides information in support of the appeal of the determination of Georgia CFO Warren Riley to deny the Chatham County application for FEMA Category A funding for debris removal from HOA's and private streets. As an overall indicator of the amount of damage caused by Hurricane Matthew in The Landings, we have issued 350 emergency home repair permits and 219 of those were major damage. Thousands of trees fell during Matthew and remain on the ground and thousands more hazardous trees still require cutting and removal.

The denial letter contains presumptions that are not supported by fact, as well as inaccuracies. The statements that "the quantities of debris and locations of the debris within these private gated communities are not impacting the community at large" and "the amount of debris within these private gated communities was well within the ability of the homeowners and or Home Owner Associations to remove" is incorrect. The Landings Association and our contractors have struggled to clear the main thoroughfares; however, storm debris continues to pile up rapidly immediately following removal. The total amount of Hurricane Matthew-generated storm debris is estimated at a minimum of 280,000 plus cubic yards, not the 4,000 cubic yards indicated in the FEMA letter. To date, 80,000 cubic yards has been removed by the Landings Association and our contractors, leaving another 200,000 cubic yards to remove.

FEMA requires Public Assistance Debris Removal Eligibility to meet all of the following:

1. Be required as a result of the disaster event;
2. Be located within a designated disaster area; and
3. Be the legal responsibility of an eligible applicant (in this case, Chatham County)

Clearly, all three of these criterion are met, the last a function of the County Special Services District ordinance. In addition, eligible debris work must be in ***the public interest***, which includes the ***elimination of immediate threats to life, public health and safety.***

Virtually all our utilities are located underground within the right-of-way and are inaccessible. The storm debris throughout the Landings community constitutes a continuing immediate threat to life, public health and safety. **Supporting facts include inaccessibility to a substantial portion of utilities due to the massive piles of debris, including 90 fire hydrants, miles of water mains and service lines, 460 water main valves, 800 sewer manholes, numerous water meters, miles of gas lines, electrical and cable conduits, coupled with the direct threat to traffic and pedestrian safety resulting from line of sight impairment.**

- We have already had one storm debris pile fire. Fortunately, an alert neighbor observed the fire early enough that the fire department stopped the spread (photo attached).

The Property Owners Association for The Landings on Skidaway Island

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However, access to the fire hydrant was hindered by debris. The inordinate amount of dry material on the ground substantially increases the risks of further incidents and will also cause fire to spread dramatically.

- There are still miles of water mains and service lines covered by debris. Since Matthew, the water department has responded to three main line leaks and 28 service line leaks. They have been forced to cut through extensive debris to access water mains, significantly increasing the time required to repair and restore water service.
- The debris covered water main valves has increased the number of customers affected during leak and damage repairs. These valves cannot be located or accessed and crews must move back and cut off multiple other valves which increases the affected service area and causes more residents to go under a boil water order. It also increases loss of a precious resource due to significantly increased time to isolate the leak.
- Almost 90% of the sewer manholes are located in the utility easement just off the street pavement. Lack of access to these sewer manholes to jet blocked sewer lines poses significant risks to public health and safety if sewer blockages cannot be cleared. Sanitary sewer overflows and backup are serious health hazards.
- It is unknown currently just how many meters are still covered with debris. We know we have many that have been ripped out of the ground (not leaking "yet") that we still cannot access for repairs. Without access, there will be significantly more home/property damage should a customer have a leak on their property.
- There were 25 gas leaks in the immediate aftermath of Matthew. Security reported another incident yesterday in which an AT&T crew struck a gas main. The fact that the gas mains and service lines are now covered with storm debris further exacerbates the high potential for safety hazards associated with removing tree and limb debris for access to these essential utilities.
- Line of sight issues from massive debris piles continue to create significant traffic hazards for vehicles, golf carts and pedestrians, with some debris blocking traffic control signs. Many of our streets are winding and a great number are narrower streets with hammer heads; the volume of debris in these narrow areas is blocking visibility and constitutes a much higher traffic safety hazard.
- Increased risk of flooding is substantial due to stacked debris toppling into the street and clogging storm drains, preventing crews from servicing the system.
- Debris piles are preventing tree removal crews from accessing additional dangerous trees that should be felled.

The Landings Association has removed 80,000 cubic yards of storm debris thus far and stockpiling additional debris is no longer an option. We have reached capacity at our McWhorter chipping site and have also reached capacity in our temporary staging area for residential material at the community Dog Park and soccer field. We no longer have the local ability to stage this material on our properties and have been running our contracted chipping operation at full capability and at significant cost. It is no longer feasible to add debris to the

chipping yard. We have incurred debris removal costs of \$30,000/day since Hurricane Matthew and it is now well beyond our financial capability to complete cleanup.

It is our sincere hope that this information will assist with facts to support a successful appeal process, a necessary outcome to ensure expeditious elimination of the immediate life, health and safety threats and hazards in existence today at The Landings. We are happy to answer any questions you or FEMA representatives may have and we look forward to a successful appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Templeton, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Rex Templeton, Jr., President
The Landings Association, Inc.

cc: Ben Watson, State Senator
Buddy Carter, U.S. Congressman
David Perdue, U.S. Senator
Dennis Jones, CEMA
Jesse Petrea, State Representative
Johnny Isakson, U.S. Senator
Lee Smith, Chatham County Manager
Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia
Patrick Farrell, Chatham County Commissioner

