

The Honorable Craig Taffaro  
President  
St. Bernard Parish  
8201 West Judge Perez Drive  
Chalmette, LA 70043

JAN 23 2008



**Office of the Federal Coordinator  
for Gulf Coast Rebuilding**

Dear President Taffaro:

I'd like to again congratulate you on your recent election as Parish President. I appreciate your continued hard work and commitment toward driving the long-term recovery of St. Bernard Parish.

As you know, I have been committed to ensuring that the Federal Government provides coordinated, effective and appropriate support to you and the other local leaders that must drive the rebuilding effort. I strive constantly to improve the performance of all Federal efforts and to ensure that Federal dollars translate into tangible and valuable results.

To that end, Congressman Melancon and I recently solicited the top-five Public Assistance (PA) project priorities from former Parish President Junior Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez identified the following projects:

1. Wastewater Treatment Plant Consolidation
2. Sewer and Drainage Pump Station Repairs
3. Vehicle and Equipment Replacement
4. Curbside Debris Removal
5. Canal Cleaning

After immediately elevating these projects to the highest levels within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), we responded on November 14, 2007, with a letter identifying actions taken by FEMA and other Federal agencies to ensure that each project move forward as quickly as possible. The letter also addressed other related project issues.

I know that Marc Roy, my Regional Director, has been working with you and your staff in anticipation of you embarking on your role as Parish President. As you now assume that role, I would like to ask you to outline the top-five PA projects that you see as your highest priority. If you could please submit these to me in advance of our meeting later this month, we will be able to address them in greater detail during our meeting. Please also identify the member of your staff that is the most appropriate contact in the ongoing monitoring of progress for these projects.

Thank you for your cooperation. Congressman Melancon and I look forward to working together with you on behalf of St. Bernard Parish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Powell", written over a horizontal line.

Donald E. Powell  
Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding

cc: Congressman Charlie Melancon