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BUILDING DIVISION

June 18, 2018

Re: Hurricane Season Damage Assessment Training

Dear Municipal Partners:

Immediately following Hurricane Irma last September, we pulled together to ensure that the damage incurred in our county was adequately documented and relayed to the appropriate state and Federal agencies, which allowed our citizens to become eligible for individual assistance. This meant that many uninsured and underinsured property owners had access to Federal resources to help them recover. Without the cooperation of every jurisdiction in our county, this would not have been possible.

We hope that those efforts won't be required this year; however, we must be prepared. Since Irma hit, we have accomplished many things that we hope will make the damage assessment process more efficient and consistent. This includes:

1. developing a new damage assessment survey program that can be used on most tablets, smartphones, and laptops with the proper ESRI licenses;
2. securing the ability to acquire surge ESRI/GIS licenses for all users (including municipal users) who use the damage assessment survey program during training or emergencies; and
3. clarifying FEMA criteria for building types and damage categories to reduce inconsistencies in reporting.

On **Wednesday, July 18, 2018 from 1:30-3:30 pm** at the **Polk County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**, we will conduct Damage Assessment training, as well as demonstrate the new damage assessment program. Specifically, we will discuss reporting requirements and procedures. I recommend that, at a minimum, the person(s) responsible for coordinating and reporting damage assessment for your jurisdiction attend this training.

Please let me know at chandrafrederick@polk-county.net who from your jurisdiction will be attending this training on July 18th. In addition, please let me know if your jurisdiction may need assistance with damage assessment in the event of an emergency. Whether County staff performs assessments in your jurisdiction or whether you conduct your own assessment and report findings to the County during an emergency, the training will be beneficial. It increases the likelihood that our assessments will be consistent and in accordance with Federal requirements.

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Thank you in advance for your participation. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions by email or at 863-534-6564.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chandra Frederick", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Chandra Frederick, AICP
Director, Polk County Building Division**