

News From Senator Shirley K. Turner



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CONTACT: Senator Shirley Turner
(609) 323-7239

NEW JERSEY STEPS UP TO HELP PUERTO RICO

Senator Shirley K. Turner (D-Mercer/Hunterdon) provided an update to her constituents today about New Jersey's role in the recovery and relief efforts in Puerto Rico. The update comes after Senator Turner wrote to Governor Christie to request more information about assistance being provided to Puerto Rico from New Jersey. This morning, Senator Turner participated in a conference call with the Governor's Office and other officials who were briefed by Gen. Michael Cunniff of the New Jersey National Guard and Col. Rick Fuentes of the New Jersey State Police about New Jersey's proposed response.

"It's been more than a week since Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, and many of my constituents are deeply concerned about the humanitarian crisis developing on the island. Assistance and recovery efforts are moving at a painstakingly slow pace, and we have residents here in New Jersey who are still anxiously waiting to connect with their family and friends. It is clear that Puerto Rico needs many helping hands right now, and the residents of New Jersey are ready and willing to step up."

"Gen. Cunniff and Col. Fuentes have indicated that they have submitted proposals to the government of Puerto Rico, which will put more boots on the ground to assist with public safety needs, recovery, and search and rescue efforts. Once the proposals are approved by the Puerto Rico government, our men and women will be ready to be deployed and provide specialized assistance as needed."

"Many of our residents want to donate items to the people of Puerto Rico, and the New Jersey National Guard is currently determining two armory locations in the north and south to assist with the collection and storage of donated goods that will be shipped to the island. Additionally, a website has been setup at www.nj4pr.org to provide news and updates, as well as to accept financial donations. A hotline, 1-833-NJ-HELPS has also been established where residents can call for more information."

"When New Jersey suffered its own crisis after Hurricane Sandy, we were grateful for the support we received from other states around the country. We understand the importance of

extending a lifeline in times of need, and we stand ready to assist our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico to get back on their feet, just as we were also there for Texas and Florida.”

Senator Turner will be providing updates on her Facebook page @NJSenatorTurner and on Twitter at @NJSenTurner.

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