



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

February 2, 2016

Mr. Timothy R. F. Skaggs,
Director, Disaster Field Operations Center-East
U.S. Small Business Administration
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Request for physical disaster declaration for Sarasota County, Florida

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

Between January 15 and January 17, 2016, an EF-2 tornado with estimated wind gusts in excess of 130 miles per hour swept through parts of Sarasota County along the southwest Florida coast and caused extensive damage to both residential and commercial properties. The tornado traveled approximately 1.14 miles and left a path of destruction 350 yards wide. Immediately following this event, the Florida Division of Emergency Management and local authorities conducted preliminary damage assessments. Damage assessments indicate that at least two businesses and 24 homes suffered major damage or were destroyed.

Based on this information and a United States Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster survey, the requisite 25 homes or businesses sustained uninsured losses of 40 percent or more of the estimated fair replacement value or pre-disaster fair market value. Therefore, Sarasota County qualifies for an SBA physical disaster declaration, pursuant to 13 C.F.R. §123.3. I request that the SBA make a physical disaster declaration for Sarasota County and offer low-interest SBA disaster loans to affected households and businesses that qualify. Florida is not seeking a major disaster declaration from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for this event.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you need additional information, please contact Evan Rosenberg, Bureau Chief of Recovery, Florida Division of Emergency Management at (850) 528-7526.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written in a cursive style.

Rick Scott
Governor