



### **Hurricane Season Wrap Up – We are Almost There!**

I know we see the light at the end of the tunnel but hurricane season does not end until November 30<sup>th</sup> and the tropics remain quite busy. I want to take one final opportunity to remind you of the importance of being prepared. Review your plans and check your supplies now.

We are lucky that major storms have spared [Palm Beach County](#) (PBC) for many years but must remain vigilant. I have said it before and will say it again; the past has taught us that despite the good intentions of government it takes as much as 24 – 48 hours to get help to you. Make your preparations now. You owe it to yourself and your family.

In light of the recent heavy rains, I want to remind you who is responsible for draining water from the lakes, swales and culverts in communities. Here in [District 5](#), water drains from our communities into canals owned and operated by the [Lake Worth Drainage District](#) (LWDD). LWDD then discharges water into regional canals owned and operated by the [South Florida Water Management District](#) (SFWMD). This three-tier system works just fine most of the time, however, during extraordinary rainfall water sometimes cannot be moved quickly enough. If you need or would like more information about water drainage, you can contact the LWDD at 561-498-5363 or SFWMD at 561-686-8800.

Whenever our [Emergency Operations Center](#) is activated for a hurricane, our employees work tirelessly throughout the storm taking calls from the public, monitoring the situation and working with our local agencies to keep you safe. I hope it is reassuring to know that behind the scenes, the county is prepared and ready to assist you.

At the heart of any response is communication. When our county closes for a storm or hurricane, please direct your calls to our public information line at 561-712-6400 so that you can receive immediate information. In addition, there are other ways to “stay in touch” with the latest information. Keep your televisions and radios tuned to your local news stations, including Channel 20. Follow us on Twitter @PBCGOV, become a fan on Facebook, or visit <https://discover.pbcgov.org>.

As always, I invite your comments on any issue of interest to you. As your Commissioner, I am here to help you. You may write me at 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401 or at [MBerger@pbcgov.org](mailto:MBerger@pbcgov.org). You can call me or my staff at 276-1310 or toll free at 877-930-2205. Please visit me on the Web at [www.pbcgov.com/d5](http://www.pbcgov.com/d5).

Yours in Public Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tracy Lau Berger'.