

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

C. RAY NAGIN
MAYOR

LtCol JERRY SNEED, USMC, (RET)
DIRECTOR

January 14, 2009

To Whom it May Concern,

In August 2008, the city of New Orleans was faced with the expected impact of Hurricane Gustav, projected to be a major and extremely dangerous storm. In preparation for this storm, the Governor of Louisiana declared a state of emergency, followed swiftly by a Federal emergency declaration. The City of New Orleans expected to be at or near the point of landfall, elected to execute its City Assisted Evacuation Plan (CAEP), which was developed in 2006, from "lessons learned" after Hurricane Katrina.


Edward Minyard and his team at ResponseForce1, fully recognizing the dangers and risks associated with this major storm, came to the aid of the City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness by contacting me and offering their professional services even without a guarantee of reimbursement for their services. This group volunteering their services during this critical time was extremely valuable since many of the personnel employed by ResponseForce 1 were instrumental in the development of the original CAEP, and had been significantly involved in the extensive recovery efforts post Katrina. The team he brought with him to assist with Gustav was highly qualified and experienced.

Upon arrival, Ed and his team immediately began to provide a variety of needed services, such as Logistics Support, Credentialing, Emergency Communications, Planning Support and other areas without even having to be directed to do so. Members of Ed's team were also actively involved in the execution of the CAEP at the most basic level- physically helping evacuees onto busses.

The City of New Orleans and the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness are indebted to Edward Minyard for the efforts of his team and himself for coming to our aid during the first ever mandatory evacuation of the city of New Orleans. Their assistance during this time greatly contributed to a successful operation.

If you should require any additional information I can be reached at jwsneed@cityofno.com or (504) 658-8700.

Sincerely yours,



J.W. Sneed
Director