

Floridians,

On Monday, I <u>presented</u> \$58,695.00 in pandemic protection funding to eight fire departments in the Panhandle area. This past legislative session, I fought for an increase in state funding for pandemic protections for firefighters via the agency's existing Cancer Decontamination Grant Program, so fire departments can buy lifesaving equipment to further protect firefighters from infectious diseases, such as COVID-19. As a result of their dangerous profession, these heroes are also more likely to contract cancer than you or me. Because of the success of this program, I supported legislation this session to double the total grant funding to ensure our firefighters are fully protected.



On Thursday, I <u>highlighted</u> hurricane preparedness tips and resources as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) predicts another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. NOAA forecasters predicted 13 to 20 named storms, of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes, including 3 to 5 major hurricanes is expected. The 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins on June 1 and ends on

November 30. As we've seen in the past, hurricanes can intensify and develop extremely fast, and I want to ensure all Floridians are prepared. Visit <u>PrepareFL.com</u> for information and resources before the next storm takes aim at Florida.

Lastly, this week, I <u>announced</u> our second 2021 Unclaimed Property Auction in beautiful Miami this weekend. This auction will have some great items to bid on including a nearly three carat diamond ring, rare coins and vintage baseball cards. The proceeds generated by the auction are credited to the owners' accounts and are claimable forever. Until claimed, these funds are used to help support public education in Florida. I'm also encouraging all individuals and business owners to search for unclaimed property now by visiting <u>FLTreasureHunt.gov</u>. An estimated one if five Floridians has unclaimed funds just waiting to be claimed at no cost to you.

I hope you have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Jimmy Patronis Chief Financial Officer State of Florida Stay
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