



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Contact: Lauri-Ellen Smith, APR

Community Relations Director, City of Pascagoula

lsmith@cityofpascagoula.com

228-217-2824

**CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO ADOPT MEXICO BEACH, FLORIDA AS "SISTER CITY"
City of Pascagoula and Pascagoula-Gautier School District Unite in Fundraising Effort**

(PASCAGOULA, MS) - Citizens of Pascagoula interested in helping the Hurricane Michael relief effort in the Florida Panhandle can now join in by dropping off *pre-activated* VISA Gift Cards at these local government offices: City Hall; Pascagoula Central Fire Department; and Pascagoula Police Department from Wednesday, October 17th through the close of business October 29th.

The Pascagoula City Council, in a unanimous vote at tonight's meeting, adopted Mexico Beach, Florida as a "Sister City" for the purpose of formalizing local efforts to provide donations to citizens desperate to get back on their feet and rebuild their lives.

The small, picturesque community in Bay County, Florida is considered by weather experts as "ground zero" for the Category 4 storm, which hit just six days ago. It was the third strongest hurricane to make landfall in the United States, and the strongest storm to make landfall in the continental US since Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

The City of Pascagoula and the Pascagoula-Gautier School District have joined together to offer relief to those impacted by this storm. The school system has already started an effort to collect change from local school children, to assist the teachers and families of the Bay County School District.

All donations will be delivered to emergency management, municipal, and school officials for disbursement to the citizens of Mexico Beach and those in the Bay County School District.

“We have seen firsthand the impact of such hurricanes, and our citizens know all too well the long road ahead for these families and their community,” Mayor Dane Maxwell said. “I ask all of our citizens, from the youngest students to our corporate partners, to help contribute to Mexico Beach and the Bay County Schools as our City and our school district return the blessings we received from others in recent years after storms when we were in need.”

The City of Pascagoula will continue to assess ways to assist in the recovery of these areas through municipal resource sharing and offering assistance where able.

For more information, contact Assistant City Manager Frank Corder with the City of Pascagoula at (228) 762-1020 or Director of Communications Debbie Anglin with the Pascagoula-Gautier School District at (228) 938-6491.