

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL EMERGENCY SESSION  
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2008 – 12:59 P.M.  
ASSEMBLY ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR  
315 COURT STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA**

**Members Present:** Robert B. Stewart, Chairman; Calvin D. Harris, Vice-Chairman; Karen Williams Seel; Susan Latvala; John Morroni; Kenneth T. Welch; and Ronnie E. Duncan.

**Others Present:** James L. Bennett, County Attorney; Fred E. Marquis, Interim County Administrator; Clarethia N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and MaryAnn Penhale, Deputy Clerk.

Chairman Stewart convened the emergency meeting regarding Tropical Storm Fay; whereupon, Interim County Administrator Marquis stated that a resolution has been prepared establishing all procedures and controls necessary to respond to the storm; that Director of Emergency Management Sally A. Bishop will present an update regarding the latest advisory received at 11:00 A.M., together with a specific recommendation; that a brief status report will be given regarding the actions of key agencies and departments; and that guidance will be sought regarding keeping county facilities open or closed tomorrow.

Ms. Bishop stated that she had met with the Disaster Advisory Committee (DAC) yesterday; that this morning's forecast is almost exactly the same as yesterday's; that the track of the storm has varied and has now moved to the east; that the DAC, which consists of 24 municipalities and partner agencies, recommends that the Board order a mandatory Level A evacuation, including mobile homes, effective 6:00 A.M. tomorrow, Tuesday, August 19, 2008; that the order would require the closure of schools tomorrow; that the DAC also recommends closing county government offices tomorrow; that the current plan encompasses the opening of 12 shelters, including pet friendly and special needs shelters; that based on the current advisory, Pinellas County could experience strong tropical storm winds of up to 60 miles per hour during the late daytime and early evening hours on Tuesday, together with a storm tide of just over four feet along the beaches and four to six inches of rain; that there will also be a threat of tornadoes; that there is an expectation of a mild to medium storm surge; and that all the aforesaid combined factors warrant the recommendation for the proposed evacuation; whereupon, she pointed out that there will also be an opportunity to modify the proposed plan and make any appropriate adjustments before 6:00 A.M. tomorrow in the event that the track of the storm moves further to the east.

Responding to queries by the members, Ms. Bishop described the effects associated with 60 miles per hour winds, the need for citizens to prepare for the storm, the possibility that the storm could strengthen before making landfall, and the authority that would be given to the Interim

County Administrator to make any necessary modifications based on information received from subsequent advisories prior to 6:00 A.M. tomorrow. Mr. Marquis indicated that the order to evacuate could be terminated, if necessary, should the storm move further to the east; whereupon, in response to queries by the Chairman and members, Ms. Bishop explained that the Level A evacuation would include all mobile home residents and residents living in the purple zone shown on the evacuation map; that the location of the 12 shelters will be announced later; that the Pinellas County School Board is in total agreement with closing the schools; that the Pinellas Suncoast Transportation Authority (PSTA) will run routes to pick up people and transport them to shelters; and that additional information will be available from local television stations as well as the Citizen Information Center.

Thereupon, Commissioner Morroni moved, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried, that Resolution No. 08-127 be adopted declaring a state of local emergency.

Mr. Marquis stated that the Board of County Commissioners meeting scheduled for August 19 will be temporarily deferred to August 26; whereupon, he indicated that he has just received a note from Chief Judge Robert J. Morris requesting that the building be closed tomorrow for the court system; and that inasmuch as the courts wish to close, a lock down would be in order for the facility; and no objections were noted.

At the request of Mr. Marquis, brief status reports regarding actions under way in anticipation of the storm were presented by Director of Public Works and Transportation Peter J. Yauch, Director of Utilities Thomas Crandall, and Assistant County Administrators Elizabeth A. Warren, James A. Dates, and Elithia V. Stanfield.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 P.M.