

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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In Bipartisan Vote, Legislature Backs Donation Of Supplies To Haiti **Legislators Earl & Paul Working With Relief Groups**

New City, NY (Oct. 21, 2016) – The Rockland County Legislature has voted to support the donation of surplus supplies for relief efforts in Haiti, where many residents are struggling with food shortages, a lack of housing and health issues following a hit by Hurricane Matthew this month.

“I hope that this surplus can benefit those who are suffering from the devastation of this storm, which was a massive Category 4 when it struck,” Legislature Chairman Alden H. Wolfe said. “This is an example of the good that county government can do when its different branches work together.”

Legislators voted 14-0 Wednesday to back a resolution that allows the donation of surplus equipment and supplies from the closed Summit Park Hospital & Nursing Care Center for Haiti relief efforts. The county will work with local agencies to coordinate the donation, requiring a detailed plan outlining how the materials will be shipped to Haiti and dispersed once they arrive.

Haiti, which already grapples with immense poverty, was still recovering from a massive 2010 earthquake, when Hurricane Matthew hit, killing more than 500 people, with the toll expected to climb. Many residents of Haitian descent live in Rockland and Legislators offered their best wishes during this difficult time.

Legislators Toney Earl (D-Hillcrest) and Aney Paul (D-Nanuet) said they have been working with local Haitian organizations to identify additional ways to help. On Sunday, Earl called together representatives of Visions of Haiti, Konbit Neg Lakay and the Haitian American Nurses’ Association, as well as Paul, to discuss strategy.

Earl is an active participant and a member of the board of the nonprofit Visions of Haiti. He will travel with the organization to Haiti in 2017 to deliver and distribute medicine and supplies.

Earl invited Rev. Nathaniel Demosthene, pastor of First Timothy Church in Spring Valley, to the Legislature's Wednesday meeting to offer the invocation. He was joined by Rev. Joseph Labannette Antoine, pastor of Bethel Church in Haiti. Both pastors are working to bring relief to Haiti.

"So many of our neighbors have family and friends who have been impacted by this storm," Earl said. "The destruction has overwhelmed many communities in Haiti and I am committed to helping however I can. It is good to see Rockland coming together to help, as it always does, when there is a great need."

Paul, a pediatric nurse practitioner, said she has already collected donations of food and toiletries, as well as some over-the-counter medications. She is working to obtain donations or to purchase other medications needed in Haiti and plans to visit the country in 2017.

"I want to help in any way I can," Paul said. "Right now, using my expertise as a nurse seems to be the most beneficial form of outreach."

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