

**Statement of the Honorable John Thomas Longo
Mayor, City of Waveland
April 12, 2007**

First of all I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to speak. I would also like to thank the Senators, Congress and the Faith Based Organizations and Foundations from around the country for their continued support.

•MANY POSITIVES

*Across the State most and graciously because of Federal support.

•MANY AREAS

*Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian and Hancock County were ground zero.

•STILL CRITICAL

*Still emergency disaster zone.

•A LITTLE OVER 50% OF POPULATION ABLE TO RETURN HOME

*50% of those are still in FEMA trailers.

*Problems for City's; Law Enforcement; Mental Health infrastructure, Schools and Families.

**•95% COMMERCIAL DESTROYED
98% RESIDENTIAL INHABITABLE**

*Economy destroyed

*Financial needs for Government and residents short and long term.

*Housing for Contractors, Volunteers and Citizens.

•INSURANCE

*Single biggest factor in residence not being able to rebuild.

*New insurance. Biggest issue with inability to rebuild and with attracting new businesses.

•GRANT FUNDS AND MONEY MADE AVAILABLE

*Through the Justice Department for Law Enforcement is greatly appreciated.

*No money for fire Services.

*Both are funded through our General Fund.

•1/3 EMPLOYEES PRIOR TO KATRINA

*Need twice of what we needed prior to Hurricane Katrina.

*Grateful to Labor Department. Two months ago extended new employee work grant for six months.

*Don't know what we would do if grant stops.

•100% EQUIPMENT LOST

*Can't replace as FEMA pays depreciated amount (i.e. well maintained motor grater original cost \$100,000.00; FEMA paid \$200.00).

•BUILDINGS – LOST EVERY CITY BUILDING

*100% Utilities lost (\$80,000,000.00 so far)

*Buildings (\$100,000,000.00 so far)

•10% LOCAL MATCH

*25% local match on Mitigation

•VACANT APARTMENT COMPLEXES

*No affordable Housing.

•COMMUNITY DISASTER LOANS

*Possible forgiveness

Immediately following Katrina every understood the enormity of the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States and the need to work together differently than after any other natural disaster(some of C.F.R. rues did not fit) this has changed causing problems from debris removal to financing.

