

**PRESS RELEASE
PALM BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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CITY LAUNCHES HAITI RELIEF FUND

(Palm Bay)—The City of Palm Bay is joining forces with United Way of Brevard to launch an unprecedented local effort to raise funds in support of ongoing disaster relief efforts in Haiti. It is the first official fundraiser by a newly formed Disaster Relief group comprised of volunteers from the city staff. The group was formed with the leadership of City Council Member William Capote and is tasked with coordinating relief efforts in response to natural and unnatural disasters anywhere in the Country and worldwide as needed. The Haiti relief fund drive officially begins Friday, February 12th and will continue for 60 days with an option to extend. The public can make tax deductible cash donations online at www.palmbayflorida.org, in person at Palm Bay City Hall located at 120 Malabar Rd. SE. The donated funds will go directly into a designated account set up through the United Way of Brevard which will then be dispensed at the direction of the committee. One-hundred percent of the cash collected will go directly towards the ongoing relief efforts in Haiti. Depending on the amount raised the money can potentially provide medicine, food, supplies, support the deployment of a medical team or whatever specific need is identified through recommendations by United Way. “We are here to be partners and support community work however we can,” said Frank Barger, of United Way of Brevard. “We are glad to be a conduit to make these things happen.”

City Councilman William Capote crafted the idea for a disaster relief group in response to the historic earthquake in Haiti. Councilman Capote believed the City should do something to provide assistance to other communities in need. “We as a community have experienced natural disasters before. We need to step up and help however we can,” Councilman Capote said. “If every one of our citizens gave just \$1, we would have well over \$100,000 to support the citizens in Haiti that are so desperately need it. I want to encourage every resident and business owner to get involved and make a difference.”

Councilman Capote added that approximately 5,000 Palm Bay residents have ties to Haiti. The disaster relief group utilizes the resources of the City and the expertise of City staff including financial experts, computer network specialists, media and marketing professionals, emergency preparedness professionals along with clerical support to facilitate an easier way for the public to engage in the cause. These employees are volunteering their time towards the ongoing effort. For more information visit the City website at www.palmbayflorida.org/disasterrelief.

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