



Borough of Seaside Park Police Department

1 Municipal Plaza

P.O. Box 56

Seaside Park, NJ 08752

(732) 793-8000 FAX (732) 793-4276 Non-emergency (732)793-7737

www.seasideparknj.org

To: Sgt. Glenn Garibaldi NJSP-LESO State Coordinator

From: Chief Francis Larkin Seaside Park Police Department

Date: 8/24/2014

Despite recent headlines concerning New Jersey's LESO program and the militarization of police forces, I would like to express my appreciation toward this program. Our agency started the LESO program after Hurricane Sandy because we found that we were desperately lacking supplies and equipment to cope with the disaster and aftermath. Since the storm we began to prepare ourselves for future disasters.

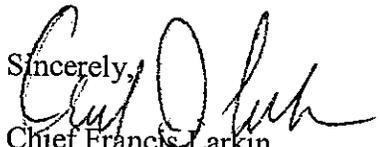
Seaside Park Borough is vulnerable to flooding during coastal storms and during heavy rainfall like we had on 8/13/2014 during the early morning hours. During that night we received an estimated rainfall of 7-9inches. As a result of the heavy rains our town became submerged in flood water making the roads impassable.

During this time we responded to multiple emergencies of vehicles being disabled in rising flood waters. Because of the water depth; our SUV Chevy Tahoe's were unable to drive through the flood water without being damaged or lost to flood water. Ptl. Condos, Ptl. Casole, and Ptl. Newton took our three HUMVEES obtained through the LESO Program and were able to successfully navigate through the flood water and rescue three people from their stranded vehicles. Also, that same night a Berkeley Twp Police car became disabled in the same flood waters and our officers again were able to push the police vehicle out of flood water and recover the Berkeley Twp police officer.

Later that morning at 0800hrs, most of the flood water had receded from the town but was still evident on our bay front. Although no rescues were conducted, officers continued to operate the HUMVEES through the flood water so police vehicles would not be damaged. At the end of the flooding our agency lost no vehicles; which would have certainly happened if we did not have the HUMVEES.

Our agency continues to use this program to suit our needs from natural disasters and to help give our citizens the assistance they need during these times. The program is invaluable and as a result we are able to give the citizens of Seaside Park the service they deserve. We look forward to the program assisting us in the future.

Sincerely,


Chief Francis Larkin