

**OCEAN CITY FAIRNESS IN TAXES
POST OFFICE BOX 565
OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY 08226**

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Sent via email at: info.vandrew@mail.house.gov

Dr. Jefferson VanDrew, Congressman
2nd Congressional District, New Jersey
2447 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: City of Ocean City Funding Request

Dear Congressman VanDrew:

Ocean City Mayor Jay Gillian announced at a recent city council meeting in which the city's five year capital plan was being presented, that the city would aggressively pursue federal grant opportunities to fund some of the city's capital improvement projects, namely the proposed \$43.1 million Public Safety Complex. The Mayor remarked that funding for this and other capital work could come from two (2) pending pieces of legislation, the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Bill and the \$3.5 trillion federal Budget Reconciliation Bill. Anticipating funding from grant programs that do not exist because the laws establishing the grant programs have not been approved by Congress is borderline wishful thinking, but it never hurts to be prepared.

In order to be fully prepared to react quickly with the federal government, it would be beneficial if the city submitted Community Project Funding request and/or Surface Authorization request to your attention as it is helpful to have projects placed in the federal government funding pipeline. While this practice is common place with local governments seeking federal financial assistance, I was quite surprised that according to your web site, the city of Ocean City **does not** have any project request pending with your office. By having no funding request pending with your office, the city is not in a strong position to secure any available federal dollars as

as many other communities are already ahead in the funding request process. In addition, while neither the Infrastructure Bill nor Reconciliation Bill is law, the Infrastructure Bill has established specific categories of infrastructure work that will be eligible for funding. The only category of work that the city might be eligible to receive grant funding from has the following description:

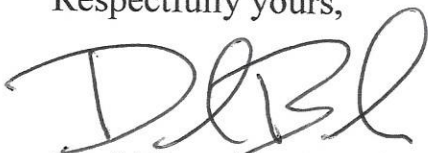
“\$50 billion -- for weather-proofing infrastructure and creating infrastructure that’s resilient to the impacts of climate change and cyber-attacks”

The balance of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Bill appears to fund work that the city is not presently performing. Also, the \$3.5 trillion dollar Reconciliation Bill has very broad categories of funding which makes it very difficult to determine if the city will be eligible to receive federal funding for capital improvement work from this piece of legislation. As a result of this information, would like to inquire about the following with your office:

1. Would like to confirm that the city of Ocean City has no funding requesting pending with your office for the current funding cycle.
2. Would like to know if the city of Ocean City has placed any funding request with your office during your tenure as a Congressman for the 2nd Congressional District, New Jersey?
3. Does your office have funding summaries for the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Bill and \$3.5 trillion Reconciliation Bill so that a better understanding of what these two (2) bills would actually fund can be achieved.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and appreciate your continued hard work with representing the 2nd Congressional District of New Jersey.

Respectfully yours,



David Breeden, President
Ocean City Fairness in Taxes

cc: Ocean City Fairness in Taxes Board of Directors