

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 16, 2016

The Honorable Maria Contreras-Sweet
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 Third Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Contreras-Sweet:

The tragic death of 49 people in Orlando last weekend due to a terrorist attack is a call to action for all Americans to come together for healing and rebuilding during this hard time. Attacks on the very nature of what it means to be American, to associate freely and live without fear in our communities, give us a chance to display the mutual obligation we have for one another as citizens of the United States in the aftermath of tragedy.

State and local resources are pouring into the area as the community responds to this disaster. So far, the City of Orlando and the State of Florida have devoted the most time, money, and energy into recovery activities. We are writing to urge the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help solve a unique problem created in the aftermath of the attack.

Local businesses in close proximity to the attack site have been closed off to the public since Sunday, causing economic damage in addition to the emotional anguish the community is already feeling. The area surrounding the attack site also happens to lie in the heart of the business district in Orlando. With a number of roads closed in the area, these businesses have also had to shut their doors without knowing when things will return to normal.

We ask that you look into your current authority to see if you can provide any assistance to these businesses, such as disaster loans. While the victims of the attack and their families remain our top priority, we believe the SBA can play a vital role in helping the Orlando community heal.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We would appreciate a timely response.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator