

For Immediate Release



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

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Greetings:

A Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, Subcommittee on Hurricane Response and Recovery meeting was held last Tuesday to discuss the progress of the hurricane clean-up.

Joyce Waddell



Senator Waddell participates as a member of the subcommittee hearing.

Hurricane Response & Recovery Meeting

During the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations Subcommittee on Hurricane Response and Recovery meeting there were stern conversations as to why many of our NC residents in the southern areas of NC have not returned to their repaired or replaced homes. There has been slow progress amid delays that have left some low-income homeowners in temporary lodging for up to six years after hurricanes Matthew and Florence displaced them.

The Governor said that even though the recovery agency, which falls under his control, is “not moving fast enough,” he remains confident in its leadership and its most recent plans for improvement.

NCORR has helped house 100 families in the last three months — 76 through completed construction projects and 24 by providing checks to families that opted for reimbursements for their out-of-pocket home repairs.

North Carolina’s legislature created NCORR in 2018, in part to distribute what became \$778 million in federal recovery funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Hurricane Matthew in 2017 and Hurricane Florence in 2020. Some lawmakers raised concerns that the agency may not complete many of its projects before federal funding expires. Under a government mandate, federal funds allocated for the recovery must be spent by June 2026. As a member of this subcommittee I am committed to working for future legislation to help all residents.

School Safety

More than \$74.1 million in new school safety grants have been awarded to North Carolina public schools, including \$659,867 for a new school visitor management system in Wake County.

The grants, announced Monday by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction's Center for Safer Schools, will help 200 school districts and charter schools pay for things such as safety equipment, services for students in crisis and more school resource officers.

Legislators have increased funding to get more school resource officers into elementary schools because of past school shootings. School safety has become top priority for the Department of Public Instruction as it is for students, families, educators.

Wake will use its grant to install kiosks at the entrances of all 198 schools that will produce visitor badges and electronically check visitors against known sexual predator and offender databases.

School safety is vital to the learning environment for our students. We must do all we can to ensure safety and provide the necessary resources for our schools.



Black Political Caucus

Senator Waddell brings greetings to the members of the Black Political Caucus.

The Advent holiday is upon us. I am excited to celebrate as the year comes to an end.

I believe that we should still be concerned about the viruses that are clogging up our emergency rooms. Please consider getting vaccinated and practice safety around your family by washing your hands and wearing masks in public places with large crowds.

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