

the Police Service; Disaster Management, Ambulance and Fire Services and specially the Survey and Mapping Department.

"I would also like to note that a lot of work has taken place so far and this has been made possible by the Government of the Turks and Caicos: the street and home addressing projects are near-complete for Providenciales, the recruitment of staff has taken place and training is currently underway. This funding drive is to buy the last parts of equipment to bring the programme into being but the majority of the work is underway or has been done.

"911 is one component of the emergency response network in the TCI, but it is a very important component. All emergency calls will be received by 911 first, so ensuring that the infrastructure and training is in place to deliver a fast and coordinated response is absolutely key. Hiring the right people, giving them the right training and putting a process in place so we can respond to emergencies as fast as we can; all of this is so we can take care of the community".

Mr John Farrand, Head of the Governor's Office, remarked on the hard work and determination of Ms Gooding to see this project succeed, and those involved with 911 so far and added:

"The islands need a functioning 911 service, and it needs to be a success. Today is an indication of support from the community and a clear example of how the private sector can support projects of this type."

Contributions for 911 are being collected in a special account set up by CrimeStoppers at FirstCaribbean International Bank. Ian McLeod, President of CrimeStoppers speaking on the occasion said:

"911 is about every single person in the community. Whether we are affected by a fire, a burglary, or a medical emergency, 911 is for the benefit of all. It is absolutely critical that everyone support it. However big or small the donation, every little helps."

Once the money is collected it will be spent on buying the last of the essential equipment and will lead to the full launch of the programme. The sooner the money is collected, the sooner 911 can come into being.

To make a donation, cheques should be made out to: Crime Stoppers Turks and Caicos – Donations. These can be dropped off at any of the local banks with the bank manager, at FirstCaribbean (where the account is held) or posted to CrimeStoppers – P.O. Box 621, Providenciales. Otherwise, donations can be deposited in the CrimeStoppers Turks and Caicos – Donations account number 10497700 at any FirstCaribbean bank or by wire transfer.

In attendance were also Mr Willette Swann, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Hubert Hughes, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Carlton Jennings, Chief Fire Officer, TCI Fire Service, Ms Dorothy Clarke, Head of Disaster Management and persons from across the emergency services and mapping.

- Ends -

Notes to editors:

Photo Captions:



Members of emergency services pictures with cheque from Bankers Association.



Panel members from left to right: John Farrand, Head of the Governor's Office; Tony Faessler, President of the Bankers Association; Juliette Gooding, MD, 911 Emergency Response; Ian McLeod, President, CrimeStopper.

About 911

The mission of the 911 Emergency Service is to provide 24 hour response to all emergency calls requiring Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services within these islands. The project has been underway since the arrival of the Project Manager, Ms Juliette Gooding, in April 2008. The first stage of the project involves an extensive street naming exercise (focusing primarily on Provo and subsequently to other islands in the change), establishing the necessary IT and radio infrastructure, training staff in the 911 call centre as well as emergency services partners (police, ambulance, fire brigade). The system for Providenciales is expected to become fully operational in the last quarter of 2009.

For further information

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