



December 6, 2022

To: Utilities Providing Mutual Aid to City of Bartow During Hurricane Ian

On behalf of the city of Bartow – and the more than 12,500 homes and businesses depending on our public power utility for electric service – I want to personally thank you for all your support to our community following Hurricane Ian. As you know, Hurricane Ian was a very strong and powerful Category 4 storm that made landfall on September 28 along the southwest coast of Florida with winds around 150 mph. For the next 24+ hours, Ian continued to pummel the state with damaging winds and relentless heavy rain.

As the storm moved unbearably slow across the Florida peninsula, high winds toppled countless trees and power lines, and heavy rain brought unprecedented flooding to many areas of the state, including the City of Bartow.

At peak, Hurricane Ian left 2.7 million customers without power statewide. Nearly 10,000 Bartow customers, or about 80% of our total customers were left in the dark. With the help of 231-line workers and tree trimmers from 50 utilities across the United States, including yours, power was restored to every single Bartow customer in just four days. Considering the extensive scope of damages and sheer volume of outages, that is an amazing job that could not have been accomplished without the help of your utility. For that, we are forever grateful.

Restoring power as quickly and safely as possible following a storm or hurricane is always our primary goal. Each one of you helped make possible our quick recovery. On behalf of the entire Bartow community, words cannot express how grateful we all are for sending your crews to assist us. Please also extend our gratitude to the other employees in your utility who had to take on extra work to allow your employees to deploy. We know that mutual aid deployment can be a hardship for the families of line workers, as well. To those families, we are thankful for your sacrifice.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for helping Bartow get the lights back on and for all you do to support other fellow public power utilities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Steve Githens
City of Bartow