

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Celeste Philip, MD, MPH**  
Surgeon General and Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

September 25, 2018

Indian River County Solid Waste Disposal District  
1325 74<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Vero Beach, FL 32968

RE: Landfill Fee Allocation:

Dear Himanshu:

Since April 2009, Florida Department of Health in Indian River County's Environmental Health section has been implementing the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) in the Gifford, Fellsmere and Wabasso communities. One of the top issues that has been identified by the residents and the health department is abandoned homes. These abandoned homes are safety and health hazards and provide havens for drug dealers and other criminal activities.

In addition to PACE EH, Environmental Health responds to complaints associated with abandoned and derelict homes and structures throughout the county. Environmental Health staff also respond to illegal dumping complaints when there is a creation of a sanitary nuisance. This type of complaint response has increased with the current economic climate, aftermath tropical storms and continued mosquito concerns in the community.

Last year the Commission allocated \$6,000 to assist with landfill fees while labor and equipment were donated by private contractors in order to assist the very low income property owners with demolishing the hazardous structures

It has been determined that there are other abandoned structures and illegal dumping sites that need to be demolished and cleaned up to improve the well-being of the community. It is the request of the partners involved that the County Commission allocate funds to cover associated landfill fees. There is an increase in projects being considered for demolition. The total associated landfill fees are not expected to exceed \$6,500.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Dunn R.S.  
Environmental Health Manager  
Indian River County Environmental Control Officer