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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5400**

January 9, 2024

COMMITTEES:  
**TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**  
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIR FOR INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Granger, Chair Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins:

As you conclude negotiations over the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Appropriations bills, I respectfully ask that you support the inclusion of fourteen Community Project Funding requests for Puerto Rico that I submitted and were advanced by the House Committee on Appropriations. These congressionally directed spending items address important priorities for communities across the Island, including public safety; coastal resiliency; rural water infrastructure improvements; affordable housing for senior citizens; and services for low-income children, individuals with disabilities, and victims of domestic violence.

*Mangrove Restoration and Rehabilitation at the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve:*

This project would support and expand a large-scale mangrove restoration and rehabilitation project carried out by The Ocean Foundation in the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Puerto Rico's second largest estuary and part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Funding would facilitate efforts to repair lingering damaged caused to Jobos Bay's mangrove forest structure by the 2017 hurricane season, which will in turn enhance hurricane-wind and flood protection for the surrounding coastal communities and the critical power-generating assets that directly border the estuary.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies recommended \$802,000 for this project through the NOAA – Coastal Zone Management (CZM) account. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Police Patrol Vehicles, Security Camera System, and Equipment for the Añasco Municipal Police:*

This project would provide funding to the Municipality of Añasco in western Puerto Rico to acquire patrol vehicles, a system of security cameras, and other law enforcement equipment for the municipal police department. These additional resources would help improve public safety in Añasco, providing the town's police officers additional assets and tools to combat crime and enhance local policing activities.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies recommended \$200,000 for this project through the Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Police Patrol Vehicles for the Loíza Municipal Police:*

This project would provide financial assistance to the Municipality of Loíza in Puerto Rico's northeastern coast to acquire police patrol vehicles, which will enable the municipal police department to increase its presence and monitoring activities throughout the town's streets and communities to deter, prevent, and combat criminal activity.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies recommended \$303,000 for this community project through the Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Mobile Security Cameras System and Law Enforcement Equipment for the Maunabo Municipal Police:*

This project would provide funding to the Municipality of Maunabo in Puerto Rico's southeastern coast to support the acquisition of a system of mobile, solar-powered surveillance cameras, as well as additional tools and gear for municipal police officers. These resources would improve public safety in Maunabo, equipping the local police department with needed capabilities to monitor criminal activity and effectively carry out its law enforcement responsibilities.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies recommended \$250,000 for this community project through the Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Police Patrol Vehicles, Security Camera System, Body-Worn Cameras, and Equipment for the Vega Baja Municipal Police:*

This project would provide funding to the Municipality of Vega Baja in northern Puerto Rico to acquire police patrol vehicles, security cameras, body-worn cameras, and other equipment. These resources would support the municipal police department with needed assets and technology to reduce crime and improve surveillance and law enforcement capabilities.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies recommended \$267,000 for this community project through the Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Police Patrol Boat, Patrol Vehicles, Radios, and Equipment for the Lajas Municipal Police:*

This project would provide financial assistance to the Municipality of Lajas in southwestern Puerto Rico to purchase a police patrol boat, patrol vehicles, radios, and other law enforcement equipment for the municipal police department. These assets and tools would help improve public safety in Lajas by equipping local police officers with additional capabilities to improve communication and increase the reach of their patrolling activities, including along the town's coastal areas and maritime approaches.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies recommended \$451,000 for this community project through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology and Equipment Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Police Patrol Vehicles, Security Camera Systems, Radio Communications System, and Equipment for the Moca Municipal Police:*

This project would provide funding to the Municipality of Moca in northwestern Puerto Rico to support the acquisition of police patrol vehicles, mobile solar-powered surveillance and video surveillance cameras, a digital radio communications system, and other equipment for the municipal police department. These additional resources and tools would enable local officers in Moca to effectively carry out their law enforcement responsibilities, fight and investigate illicit activities, and improve the safety of the town's citizens.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies recommended \$803,000 for this community project through the COPS Technology and Equipment Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*AYANI Centers for Children and Adults with Disabilities Capital Improvements Project:*

This project would provide financial assistance to Centro de Ayuda y Terapia al Niño con Impedimento, Inc. (Centro AYANI, Inc.) to carry out capital improvements in its three centers for children and adults with disabilities in the municipalities of Aguadilla, Camuy, and Moca. Centro AYANI, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to offering services to individuals with disabilities in Puerto Rico. The requested funding would support needed infrastructure upgrades within its three centers, including by equipping them with solar panels and water well systems and renovating parking areas to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies recommended \$3.5 million for this community project through the

Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Ciudad de Oro Senior Housing Construction Project:*

This project would provide funding to the Municipality of Isabela to rehabilitate and expand an abandoned building to convert it into a housing complex for senior citizens, thus increasing the availability of affordable housing options for this population in Puerto Rico's western region.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies recommended \$1.75 million for this community project through the EDI Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Hogar Albergue de Niños de San Germán Rehabilitation and Construction Project:*

This project would provide financial assistance to support planning, design, and construction at the facilities of Hogar Albergue de Niños de San Germán, Inc.—a nonprofit organization that provides services and temporary housing to children under the custody of the state—to expand and increase capacity. Specifically, funding would support the relocation of the main kitchen, playground, and isolation room; expansion to include additional residential treatment areas and office space for mental health specialists; and building of storage, laundry room space, and other needed improvements.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies recommended \$500,000 for this community project through the EDI Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Utuado Domestic Violence Non-Congregate Emergency Shelter Improvements and Rehabilitation:*

This project would provide funding to support structural improvements to and the rehabilitation of a non-congregate emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence run by nonprofit Fundación Alas a la Mujer, Inc. This will help fulfill the need for an emergency shelter with adequate facilities to temporarily house and serve victims of domestic violence in Puerto Rico's rural, interior mountain region, including the municipalities of Utuado, Adjuntas, Jayuya, and Lares.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies recommended \$750,000 for this community project through the EDI Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Boys and Girls Clubs of Puerto Rico Arecibo Clubhouse Construction Project:*

This project would provide funding to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Puerto Rico to support the construction of a new clubhouse in the Municipality of Arecibo from which the nonprofit organization can expand its services for low-income children and families, as well as increase opportunities for academic and economic advancement.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies recommended \$1 million for this community project through the EDI Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

*Barceloneta Senior Center and Assisted Living Facility Construction:*

This project would provide funding to the Municipality of Barceloneta in northern Puerto Rico to support the construction of a new senior center and assisted living facility and help address the increasing need for additional, affordable housing for the town's elderly population.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies recommended \$750,000 for this community project through the EDI Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

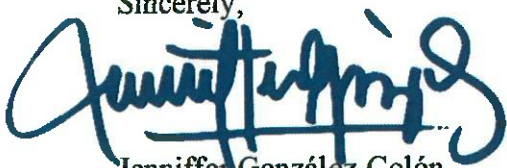
*Barrio Duey (Duey Ward) Water Pumping Station Construction Project:*

This project would provide funding to the Municipality of Yauco in southern Puerto Rico to support the construction of a new water pumping station in Barrio Duey (Duey Ward) to connect a well to an existing potable water distribution site and improve water delivery services for surrounding rural communities.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies recommended \$500,000 for this community project through the EDI Program. I request that you support its inclusion in the final FY 2024 Appropriations bill.

Thank for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jenniffer González-Colón", written over a horizontal line.

Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress