DRAFT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Businesses encouraged to prepare for Hurricane Matthew

October 4, 2016 – Flagler County officials are encouraging businesses to make preparations as Hurricane Matthew tracks westward, and closer to Florida’s coastline.

“This will not only help businesses reduce their own recovery time, but it will help bring the community back to normalcy if we are impacted by the storm,” said Emergency Manager Steve Garten.

Businesses should back up computer files and have a non-electronic list of necessary contacts and employees, as well as utilities. Important records and documents should be stored in watertight containers.

“Also protect windows from windborne debris,” Garten said. “Remove overhanging trees and branches that could fall and damage structures.”

The goal is to meet the needs of residents when and if a hurricane and businesses play a big part in that in times of need.

“The bulk of the business in Flagler County, about 80 percent, is small business,” said Helga van Eckert, Economic Development director. “I know these small businesses already provide some sort of service that we could use during an emergency.”

Those services could be anything from preparing food for first responders to assisting with efforts to clean and disinfect public buildings.

“The wonderful thing about Flagler County is that there is such a strong sense of community here,” van Eckert said. “It behooves us all to keep all of our residents and businesses thriving right here at home.”

###