



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
JIMMY PATRONIS'
RUNDOWN
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Floridians,

Earlier today, the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics issued a new [report](#) that **the U.S. economy added 1.8 million jobs in July and the nationwide unemployment rate dropped from 11.1 percent in June to 10.2 percent in July**. This is the kind of good news we all wanted to hear. President Trump has had to deal with responding to the pandemic while keeping our nation's economy afloat, and thanks to the President's hard work our nation is continuing to see positive job growth. This recovery means so much to so many families throughout Florida and the nation that want the opportunity to go back to work and provide for their families.

As we enter the peak of hurricane season, I am encouraging those Floridians who have not already prepared to do so now. Yesterday, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released a report that [predicts an extremely active hurricane season](#). The report states, "this is one of the most active seasonal forecasts that NOAA has produced in its 22-year history of hurricane outlooks," and expects 19-25 named storms, of which 7-11 will become hurricanes. Florida was lucky to have been spared by Isaias, but there's plenty of time left in storm season. At the tail end of hurricane season, it was Hurricane Michael that caused extreme devastation to the Panhandle, and we just can't become complacent when it comes to protecting our loved ones. These storms can develop extremely fast, and I want to ensure everyone is prepared. Visit [PrepareFL.com](#) for information and resources before the next storm takes aim at Florida.

On Wednesday, I issued a **Consumer Alert to warn Floridians and business owners to be cautious of fake check scams as a recent [report](#) highlighted the arrest of a Florida man for grand theft of a motor vehicle after allegedly printing fake checks from his home computer**. The Federal Trade Commission estimated that Florida lost nearly \$90 million to fraud last year alone. It is vital that all business owners watch out for scam artists and stay on guard when it comes to accepting large amounts of money in the form of a personal or business check. If you feel you've fallen victim to fraud, report it immediately at [FraudFreeFlorida.com](#). I commend the Walton County Sheriff's Office for bringing this alleged fraudster to justice before he could scam another business.

Late Tuesday evening, I signed [CFO Directive 2020-13](#), which provides Florida's K-12 schools with flexibility to conduct required fire safety drills while implementing social-distancing procedures. Specifically, the Directive permits schools to conduct fire drills in phases and assemble students in alternate mustering areas, as necessary to promote social distancing. As State Fire Marshal, I am committed to ensuring Florida's students learn in a safe environment. **By signing this directive, schools will be able to conduct fire drills in a manner that maintains the kind of social distancing protocols we expect districts to put into place.** We're living in challenging times and it's important we don't ignore the threat that fire presents to our children, our teachers and our facilities. It's important we empower our local fire officials to work with school leaders to ensure our students practice fire drills, so they come home safe-and-sound. I want to thank our fire chiefs for their hard work and dedication while working with Superintendents to ensure Florida's students remain safe while they are at school.

The Division of Unclaimed Property broke another record by returning \$42.9 million in the month of July, the highest monthly return total in the Division history. Since I took office in 2017, our Division of Unclaimed Property has returned more than \$1.1 billion back to Floridians. This is another amazing milestone for our Unclaimed Property Team, especially since our staff has been teleworking since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Despite these recent challenges, I'm extremely pleased that the Division persevered and was able to break these records and return a significant amount of money back to the pockets of Floridians.

Lastly, I would like to encourage Floridians to take advantage of the [2020 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday](#), which starts today and runs through Sunday, August 9, 2020. With today's unique challenges it's harder than ever being a parent and having to make decisions on how to best educate children while doing it safely. Money is tight for families right now throughout the state and this is a great opportunity to save money on the supplies children need to reach their full academic potential this school year. This sales-tax holiday will make those purchases a little easier on families so they can provide their children with the tools needed to learn and succeed.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida

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Size



Top Tweet



Jimmy Patronis  @JimmyPatronis · Aug 1

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to the Florida Highway Patrol. Thank you to all of the dedicated men and women who have selflessly served Floridians & protected our highways for the last 81 years. Your sacrifices make the Sunshine State great! @FLHSMV

