



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

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Floridians,

As your CFO, I remain committed to protecting your taxpayer dollars and ensuring transparency in state spending. This week, we provided an update on the request of state vendors to self-identify whether they are majority-owned by the Communist Party of China. This is a follow-up to the [announcement](#) that was made at the May 28, 2020 Florida Cabinet meeting. The Department issued a letter to approximately 100,000 vendors who are registered to do business with State of Florida and are setup to receive taxpayer money. To date, the Department has received more than 6,500 responses and a number of questions related to the vendor letter. To find out more, please visit our [Vendor Survey](#) website.

I was thrilled to announce last week that more than [\\$24 million in Unclaimed Property](#) has been returned to Floridians during the month of May. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Florida's Division of Unclaimed Property has worked tirelessly and returned more than \$95 million to the pockets of Floridians when they needed it most. I'm looking forward to continuing this great trajectory and working to make 2020 a record-high year for returns. Individuals and businesses can start your search now at [FLTreasureHunt.gov](#).

This week, I held virtual meetings with the Chamber of Commerce in Jacksonville, Tampa, Daytona, and Pensacola to discuss important issues impacting Florida as well as their local business communities. As we work to safely re-open our state, and as a former small business-owner myself, I'm committed to supporting Florida's small businesses. I discussed the [need for vital legislation next year](#) to take away incentives for lawyers to engage in predatory 'sue and settle' tactics and shield our small businesses from liability for COVID-19 related claims. We must not allow our state's recovery to be derailed by the constant threat of lawsuits that will put people out of business and inevitably increase insurance rates for all Floridians.

Lastly, I held a call this week with the Executive Boards of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association and the Florida Professional Firefighters to receive updates on COVID-19 response efforts from first responders statewide. My office continues to [work with fire chiefs](#) to capture and monitor vital data on the impacts of the virus to their workforce, as the threat of exposure can take fire personnel off-line for extended periods

of time. With nearly 380 firefighters statewide taken off the frontlines due to the threat of COVID-19, this data is crucial to our fire departments who work to support each other and protect our communities.

I cannot thank these brave men and women enough for their tireless efforts to keep us safe as we work together to safely reopen our state.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida

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