

## Bahamian American Partnership Donates Fire Truck to Bimini, Bahamas:



■ BAILEY TOWN, Bimini  
Frank Minaya, president  
of the Bahamian American  
Partnership, waving from a  
fire truck that the partner-  
ship has donated to the resi-  
dents of Bimini. Cynthia  
Pratt, Deputy Prime Minis-  
ter and Minister of National  
Security, recently flew to the  
island to accept and commis-  
sion the vehicle.

■ BAILEY TOWN, Bimini  
– Cynthia Pratt, Deputy  
Prime Minister and Minister  
of National Security, chatting  
with young Bimini residents  
wearing firefighters' hats  
following her commissioning of a  
fire truck donated by the  
Bahamian-American Partner-  
ship.



BAILEY TOWN, Bimini – Cynthia Pratt, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, accepted and commissioned a fire truck donated by the Bahamian-American Partnership to residents of Bimini.

Established after the Bay Street Straw Market fire of September, 4, 2001, and the terror attacks on the United States a week later, the partnership had initiated a number of programmes relating to fire safety and prevention in the Bahamas.

They include an elementary school Firefighter-in-Training project, which, using professional videos and training materials donated by partners in New York, educates children on fire safety. The partnership has also brought New York City fire-fighter heroes to the Bahamas to interact with Bahamian fire services staff, educators at the College of the Bahamas and Firefighter-in-Training students, and has provided smoke detectors to Bahamians in need.

An appeal for a fire truck was

made by Obie Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism, on behalf of more than a dozen families in Bimini who lost their homes in a fire.

Frank Minaya, president of the Bahamian-American Partnership, said many partners showed great interest in assisting in this endeavour. Among them were Hannes Babak of Freeport Concrete and Sandy Schaefer of Robin Hood Electronics.

Mr Schaefer went to New York to negotiate the purchase of the fire truck and to speak with fire-fighter heroes who survived the September 11 attacks.

Hugh Buckner, chief executive officer of Sandyport's Olde Town, has supported the partnership since its inception, providing accommodation for visiting New York firemen.

Sandyport, Mr Minaya said, has also supported the partnership's efforts to reduce the incidence of repeated incarcerations by supporting work-study programmes at Her Majesty's Fox Hill Prison.