



LINA HIDALGO



Mayor Sylvester Turner

March 24, 2021

Mr. Robert Fenton
FEMA Administrator
500 C St. SW
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Request for extension of federal support of the Community Vaccination Center at NRG Park

Dear Acting Administrator Fenton,

First, we want to thank you and the entire Biden Administration for your comprehensive support for our community in getting through the COVID-19 crisis. Over the past several months, you have provided tremendous assistance for those of us at the local level who are on the front lines of this crisis. From the American Rescue Plan to enhanced aid for vaccinations, you have provided help that our residents so desperately need. I also want to thank you for FEMA's continued response related to the winter storm disaster, from which so many of our residents are still recovering. The Individual Assistance you are providing has been a lifeline for many of our residents.

Today, we are writing to respectfully request your continued support of the COVID-19 Community Vaccination Center (CVC) at NRG Park in Harris County. The CVC has successfully enabled distribution of 6,000 vaccine doses per day, 7 days a week, since late February, and has helped to reduce racial and geographic disparities in vaccine distribution in Harris County and the City of Houston. Its continued operation is critical to getting Harris County and City of Houston residents vaccinated as soon as possible. We respectfully request continued Federal support of the CVC with a supplemented vaccine supply through at least May 31, 2021.

The CVC is a critical component of our equitable vaccine distribution strategy. Residents who live in communities that are underserved and at a high risk for COVID-19 based on the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and severity of COVID-19's impact are prioritized for vaccination at the CVC. Relative to other vaccine providers in Harris County, the site has vaccinated a

greater share of vulnerable and priority communities. Preliminary reports show that the demographic profile of residents who have been vaccinated at the CVC includes more than twice the proportion of African American and Hispanic residents in comparison to Harris County peer providers, and that the demographic profile of residents vaccinated at the CVC closely matches the overall demographic profile of Harris County. Furthermore, geographic analysis shows that the CVC has served a greater proportion of individuals originating from socially disadvantaged communities. The success of the CVC in reaching communities that lack equitable access to the vaccine demonstrates the need for its continued operation.

As of March 22nd, 12.1% of the Harris County population ages 16 and over have been fully vaccinated. We respectfully ask for your continued support of the NRG Park CVC to help Harris County residents quickly and equitably access COVID-19 vaccines, even as the state reopens and lifts mask requirements.

Sincerely,



Lina Hidalgo
Harris County Judge



Sylvester Turner
Mayor, City of Houston

Cc: Tony Robinson, FEMA Region 6 Administrator
Nim Kidd, Chief of the Texas Department of Emergency Management
Dr. John Hellerstedt, MD, Commissioner of Health, Texas Department of State Health Services