



CITY OF HOUSTON

Housing & Community Development Department

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

Tom McCasland
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Pete Phillips
Senior Director
Community Development and Revitalization Program
General Land Office
State of Texas

March 2, 2018

Dear Pete,


Following up from our call this morning, we have received the draft action plan that has now gone to translation in advance of being published for public comment. The city is very concerned that the state completed its action plan without consultation with the city of Houston, as required by HUD's notice in the federal register. The state is responsible for meeting HUD's requirements; failing to consult now undermines the validity of the process and could delay the city's recovery.

We know from our history with Ike that these requirements aren't simply procedural – meaningful consultation is meant to inform decisions about methods of distribution and needs assessment so that recovery is successful and we don't encounter delays later in the process. Local knowledge and experience is paramount in delivering a successful recovery for the people of Houston.

We are unaware of meaningful consultations on how funds will be spent or how recovery contributes to broader redevelopment plans that include nongovernmental organizations or the private sector. We are particularly interested in ensuring that nongovernmental groups that represent directly affected residents, many of whom were active in getting Ike recovery back on track, are included in the process.

We want to get this right from the beginning, which is why the city's recovery team and my office have asked repeatedly to be included in the action planning process. Along with the county, we are the state's largest local government in the disaster area. We must be included in the planning process as partners with the state so that we execute a successful recovery together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom McCasland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being more prominent than the last name "McCasland".

Tom McCasland

Cc: Marvin Odum, Chief Recovery Officer, City of Houston
Marvette Hunter, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Bill Kelly, Director, Government Relations, Office of the Mayor