



**Office of the Houston City Controller
Harvey Recovery Oversight Committee (HROC) Meeting
January 29, 2018**

Meeting held at: Controller's Office 8th Floor Conference Room

Committee Members Present:	Members Not in Attendance:
City Controller Chris Brown; Chair	Alexander Obregon, Deputy Controller
Courtney Smith, City Auditor	
Shannan Nobles, Chief Deputy Controller	
Christine Lally	
Michael Porier	
Gary Horn	
John Sorrells	
Representative from Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General	

I. Meeting Called to Order at 11:00 AM **by Controller Brown**

II. Introductions

- **Controller Brown** welcomed committee members and thanked them for their continued commitment to the committee and the City of Houston.

III. Recommendations

- **Controller Brown** informed committee members that the HROC committee will move to quarterly meetings.
- **The committee** accepted the recommendation and will tentatively hold its next meeting in May 2018.

IV. Discussion

- **Controller Brown** stressed two current areas of concern with ongoing recovery efforts:
 - The overall recovery-related procurement processes; and
 - Houston First contracting
- **City Auditor Courtney Smith** discussed the Controller's Office's oversight and audit capabilities relating to the overall procurement process, as well as over Houston First and other entities.
- **Committee Member #1** inquired into whether Houston First agreements fall within the 90/10 federal split, like the city's expected split.
 - **Committee members** stressed that proper documentation must be preserved for the city to be fully reimbursed.

- **Controller Brown** reemphasized the importance of proper documentation and shared that the Controller's Office is doing everything in its power to ensure this is occurring.
- **Committee Member #1** suggested that the City of Houston's recovery consultant could provide oversight over the Houston First procurement process.
- **Committee Member #4 (DHS Representative)** shared that they will consult with the US Housing & Urban Development (HUD) department to see what the standard criteria is for the FEMA reimbursement process.
- **Committee Member #2** shared past experiences with procurement related to emergency scenarios, and identified areas where potential fraud could be found in the ongoing recovery efforts.
- **Controller Brown** asked the committee what should be requested pertaining to the Houston First procurement.
 - **The committee** suggested that the city should seek to review any documents responsive to the RFP.
- **Deputy Controller Nobles** shared with the committee the agreements that will be sought by the Controller's Office going forward.
 - Those agreements will be shared with the committee during the upcoming HROC meeting.
- **Controller Brown** shared details of his recent meeting with the city's Chief Recovery Officer, Marvin Odum.
- **Controller Brown** also shared his concern about any Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) that get passed down from the federal government, through the state, and to the city.
 - **Committee Member #1** inquired about the CDBG grant process and how funding is disseminated to the city.
 - **Committee members** expressed concern about how funding will be treated for public vs. private sector dollars.
 - i.e. Will contractors treat public dollars the same way they treat private dollars?
- **Auditor Courtney Smith** shared that the Housing & Public Works and Engineering Departments are working to set parameters around CDBG grants.
 - **Committee Member #3** shared that the committee could conduct an audit analysis of the reimbursement process and departmental reimbursement criteria.
- **Controller Brown** shared the details of a new flood mitigation ordinance that will come before City Council in the weeks to come.

V. Future Meeting Dates

- The next meeting date is tentatively set for May 2018.
- The committee accepted the recommendation to move to quarterly meetings.

VI. Adjournment

- **Meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.**