



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

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Dear Members of the H-GAC Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HGAC's proposed Method of Distribution. Before offering my own comments, I wish to thank Council Member Sallie Alcorn for her leadership not just as a member of the HGAC Board, but as an advocate for the people of Houston.

Both Council Member Alcorn and I believe that the decision by this board to continue with the current Method of Distribution that allocates to the City of Houston less than 2% of available CDBG-MIT monies will not address the needs of the people of Houston and this region.

Northeast Houston, Sunnyside, Acres Homes, the East End, and so many other communities were vulnerable during Harvey and without a sufficient allocation and investment of CDBG-MIT funds, these communities will suffer again and again with every future major flooding event.

While all of our communities were affected, those that were most severely impacted and will continue to be vulnerable are our historical communities of color. HUD has already found that GLO has discriminated against this minority population, but HGAC can stop that inequity by not following GLO's lead. We are a region, and by working together we can serve all people – no matter their color or creed.

Less than 2% of funding for a population that makes up over 30% of the HGAC region cannot stand. What meaningful infrastructure investments can we put in place with only \$9 million in a city that spans over 665 square miles and nearly 2.3 million people?

At the end of the day, let us not forget that we are talking about people, our people, not just dollars whenever we are choosing the Method of Distribution. Because yes, it is a choice. We can choose to work together to invest the funds equitably for the most impacted communities as was intended by Congress.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor