



# CITY OF HOUSTON

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**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

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November 28, 2017

The Honorable Brock Long  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St SW  
Washington, DC 20024

The Honorable Dr. Ben Carson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Administrator Long and Secretary Carson:

Thank you for the invaluable assistance that the leadership and staff of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have provided to the City of Houston in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Harvey's flooding displaced hundreds of thousands of residents across the area. Thousands of Houston households remain displaced by the damage and are struggling to find intermediate housing solutions. Additionally, the Transitional Shelter Assistance Program is scheduled to end January 16, 2018, placing additional strain on Houston's most vulnerable residents.

In light of these circumstances, the City of Houston requests that FEMA join with HUD to launch the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) for the City of Houston. This program has been successfully implemented to respond to the needs of displaced households after other major declared disasters including Superstorm Sandy and Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike.

This additional housing assistance will provide the City with time to assist displaced Houstonians in identifying and transitioning to long-term housing solutions. We estimate that the City will require resources sufficient to assist up to 3,500 households for a period of up to 16 months.

While an anticipated agreement with the Texas General Land Office will provide some relief to families in need, as reported in the Houston Chronicle, “[t]he state has not identified a single multifamily property owner willing to participate in its rental programs.” Thus, the City of Houston is concerned that the need for interim rental housing will far outstrip what these voluntary programs will provide unless a DHAP program is implemented.

The City of Houston stands ready to work with FEMA and HUD to assist these households in locating intermediate term and permanent housing solutions. I urge you to consider this request, and I will be happy to provide whatever information you need to determine the scope of additional resources provided to the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvester Turner', written over a horizontal line.

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor

cc: Gov. Greg Abbott  
Commissioner George P. Bush, Texas General Land Office  
Deputy Secretary Pamela Patenaude, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
Development  
U.S. Rep. Gene Green  
U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee  
U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady  
U.S. Rep. John Culberson  
U.S. Rep. Al Green  
U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul  
U.S. Rep. Ted Poe  
U.S. Rep. Pete Olson  
U.S. Rep. Randy Weber  
U.S. Rep. Brian Babin