



**GREG TRAVIS**  
Houston City Council Member, District G

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Lina Hidalgo  
Harris County Judge  
1001 Preston St.  
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Judge Hidalgo,

I am writing to express my grave concerns with your announcement that the prioritization of flood control projects to be funded with proceeds from the recent Harris County \$2.5 billion bond election will be revised to consider "equity" as a factor, and in fact as you said on Fox26 News, "*the* factor" to be considered. If we are to talk equity, then flood every home in Harris County for 14 days with seven feet of sewer water so it is truly equitable. After all, that is what a large portion of my district experienced during Hurricane Harvey.

In the materials published and distributed prior to the bond election, in the materials online, and in the two dozen public meetings hosted by Harris County Flood Control District across the county, I am unaware that income equity was ever discussed or ever presented as a factor to be considered in the prioritization of projects. Much of west Houston was completely flooded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releasing water from Barker and Addicks Reservoirs. While I have thousands of constituents whose homes were completely flooded with sewage water for over two weeks following the release, my constituents are told they will only qualify, at most, for some share of 20% of the recovery funds received from HUD. The other 80%, at minimum, will be distributed to low to moderate income homes. In this regard, equity is already being addressed by the city of Houston. So, rather than completing projects on a worst first basis, you are proposing to ignore those who were hardest hit by Harvey and reprioritize those funds to low income neighborhoods, duplicating the city's efforts.

I also noticed in a recent communication from your office the "stakeholders" identified for the meetings and discussions of equity. I noticed groups such as the Houston Organizing Movement for Equity, the League of Women Voters, and the Texas Organizing Project. What I failed to notice were any stakeholders from District G, even though Buffalo Bayou runs through my district from Highway 6 all the way into and past downtown Houston. Might I suggest you add me and my office to that list so that I get notice along with the following groups:

- Memorial Super Neighborhood #16
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood #17
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood #18
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce
- Super Neighborhood Alliance
- Residents Against Flooding
- Frostwood Flood Committee
- TIRZ 17
- The Energy Corridor District
- The Westchase District

I am asking you to reconsider your proposal. Let's do the most good for the most people rather than conducting social engineering to decide which projects should be funded immediately. Failing to do so may lead to the continued deterioration of all property values and to the reduced tax revenue for the City of Houston, Harris County and the flood control district.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (832) 393-3007.

Sincerely,



Greg Travis

cc: Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Precinct 1  
Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2  
Commissioner Steve Radack, Precinct 3  
Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Precinct 4  
Mayor Sylvester Turner