

HCDD CDBG DR-2 Program Guidelines Waiver Request

Request No. 3: That Community Revitalization Areas (CRAs) and the CRA Outreach Areas Selected in the HCDD CDBG DR-2 Planning Process be Considered High Opportunity Areas for Purposes of the Homeowner Opportunity Program

Date: July 9, 2013

The City of Houston (the City), for the Hurricane Ike/Dolly Round II Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (the Program), believes that it is in the best interest of the residents of the City of Houston to modify the Texas General Land Office (GLO) Round 2 Housing Program Guidelines (the Round 2 Guidelines), and therefore requests the following waiver.

The purpose of this waiver is to permit the Community Revitalization Areas (CRAs) (as described in Exhibit A attached hereto), those areas where the City desires to invest funds from the Program, and CRA Outreach Areas (as described in Exhibit B attached hereto) identified through the HCDD CDBG DR-2 Planning process to be considered High Opportunity Areas for purposes of the HOP program, and that mobility counselors present these CRAs as options to applicants during counseling.

The HOP Guidelines state under Program Options Counseling regarding the relocation options, the Mobility Counseling (Page 15) and Real Estate Professional Services (Page 16) that in relation to the target areas:

- 1) The GLO must grant a waiver for the target areas (if the applicant relocates into a target area).
- 2) Counselors must "begin preparing the applicant for transition into a Higher Opportunity Area."
- 3) Real Estate professionals must "ensure that the homes presented to the applicant are located in eligible relocation areas. This may be done by using the GLO HOP Online Mapping Viewer."

The City of Houston committed, as part of the Program, to a robust planning process to determine those areas where the confluence of Program funds and other investments could be leveraged to affirmatively further fair housing by encouraging the creation of economically feasible, mixed income developments and communities with diverse populations to the greatest extent possible pursuant to best practices cited in the Planning Study and the Round 2 Guidelines, as amended. This goal is to transform current "High Risk" areas into the very sort of areas of higher opportunity into which the HOP program is designed to provide applicants the opportunity to relocate.

The City of Houston has requested that applicants be allowed to use HOP to relocate within CRAs and the CRA Outreach Areas, even if the CRAs and the CRA Outreach Areas are located within the target areas, in Waiver Request #2.

Assuming the approval of Waiver #2, the City of Houston requests that the CRAs and the CRA Outreach Areas identified through the HCDD CDBG DR-2 Planning process be considered High Opportunity Areas for purposes of the HOP program, and that mobility counselors present these CRAs and the CRA Outreach Areas to applicants during counseling.

Further, and also assuming the approval of Waiver #2, the City of Houston requests that the GLO HOP online Mapping Viewer reflect the CRAs as eligible relocation areas, that the Real Estate Professionals be informed about the CRAs and the CRA Outreach Areas, and that they be allowed to present land or houses within the CRAs and the CRA Outreach Areas.

The City of Houston requests that GLO grant this waiver to the Round 2 Guidelines.

Submitted by:



Neal Rackleff

Director

Housing and Community Development Department
City of Houston



Date

Approved by:

Jorge Ramirez
GLO

Date

Exhibit A

Please see attached.

Greater 5th Ward Community Revitalization Area

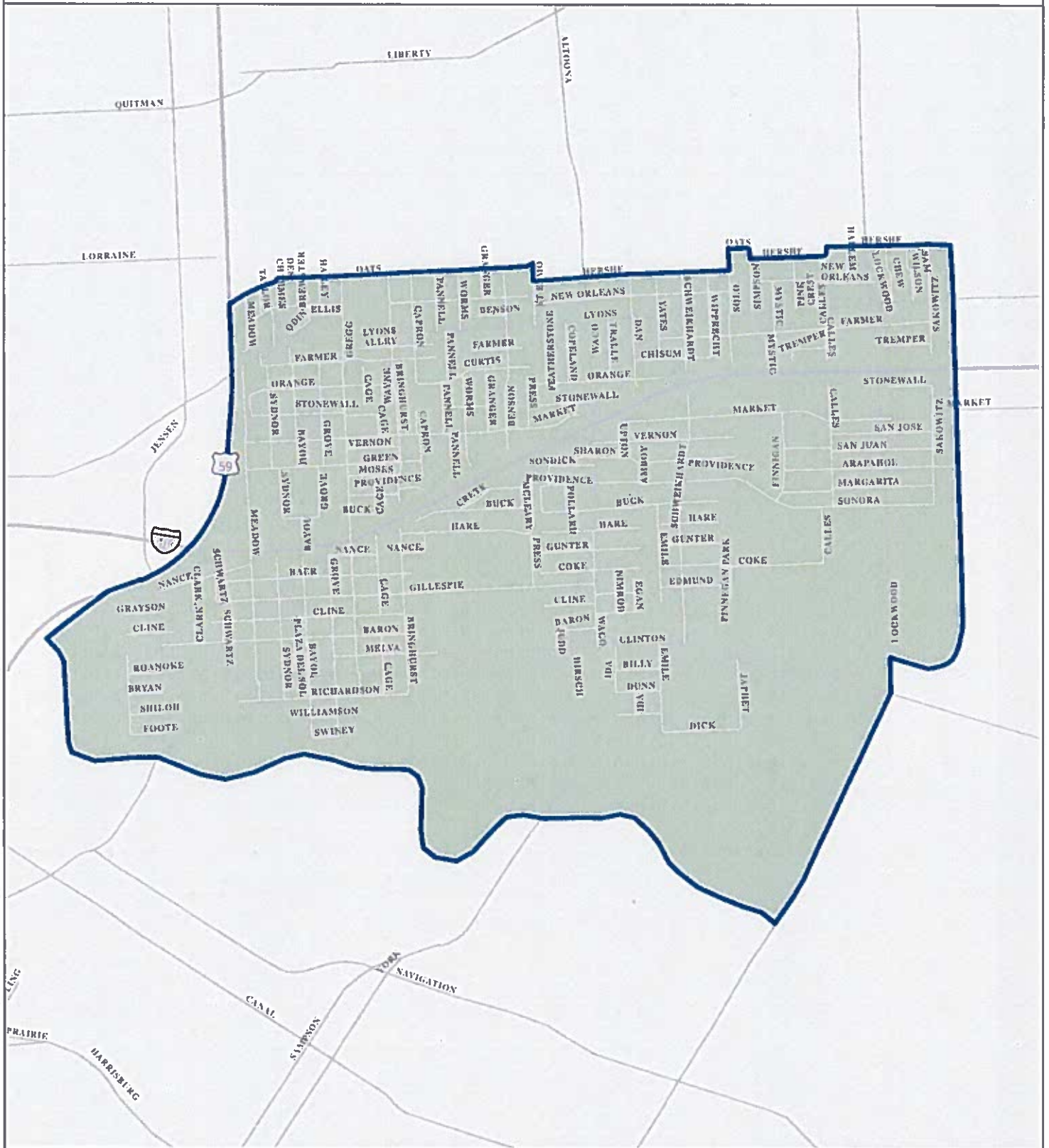
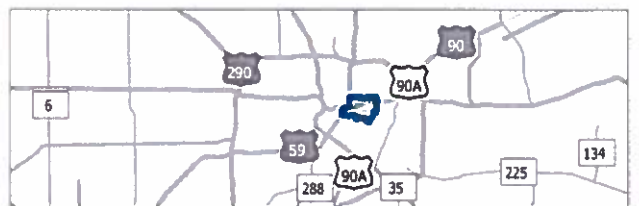


EXHIBIT A



Northside Village Community Revitalization Area

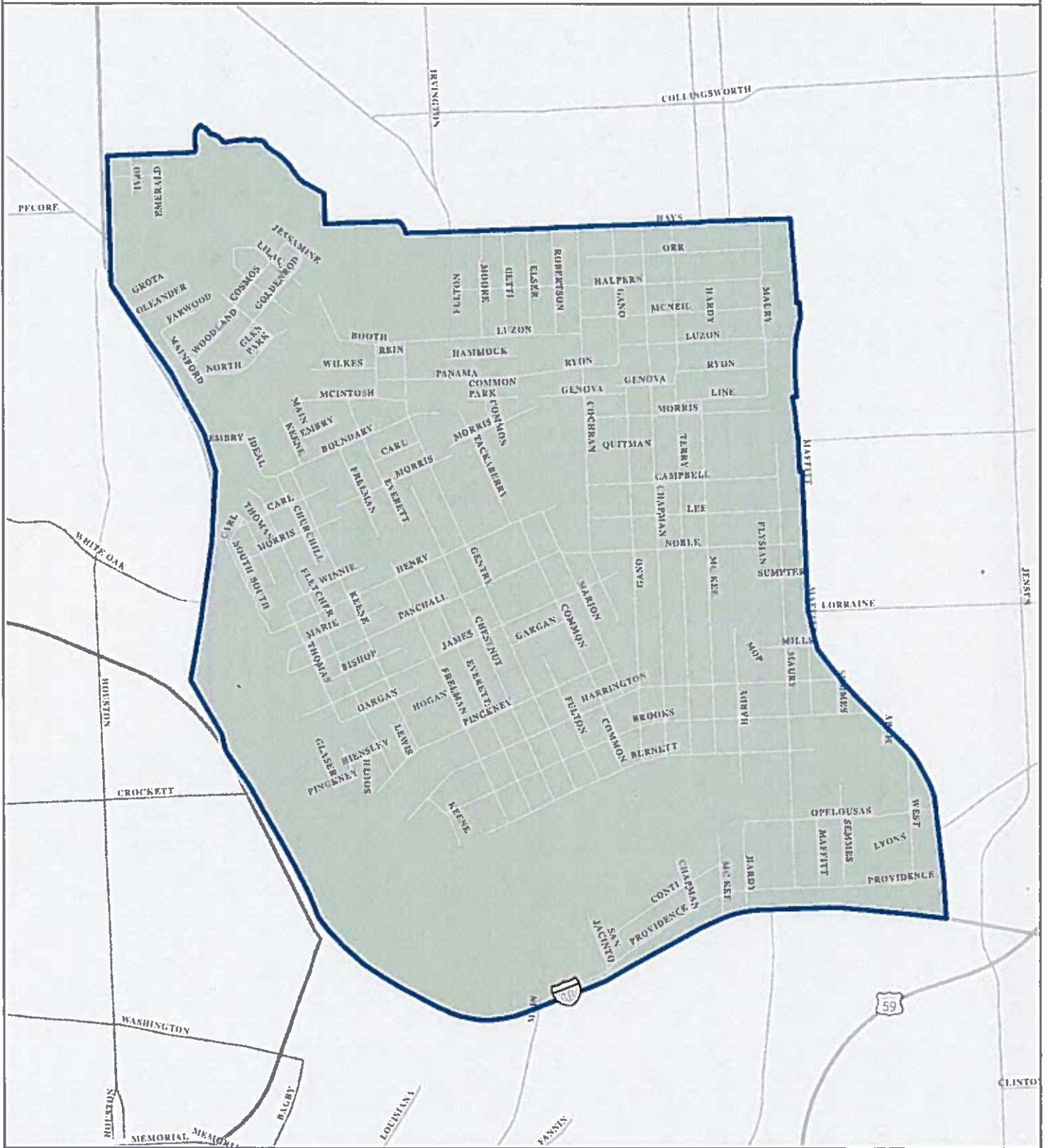
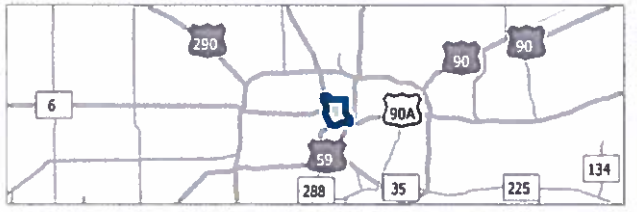


EXHIBIT A



OST/South Union Community Revitalization Area

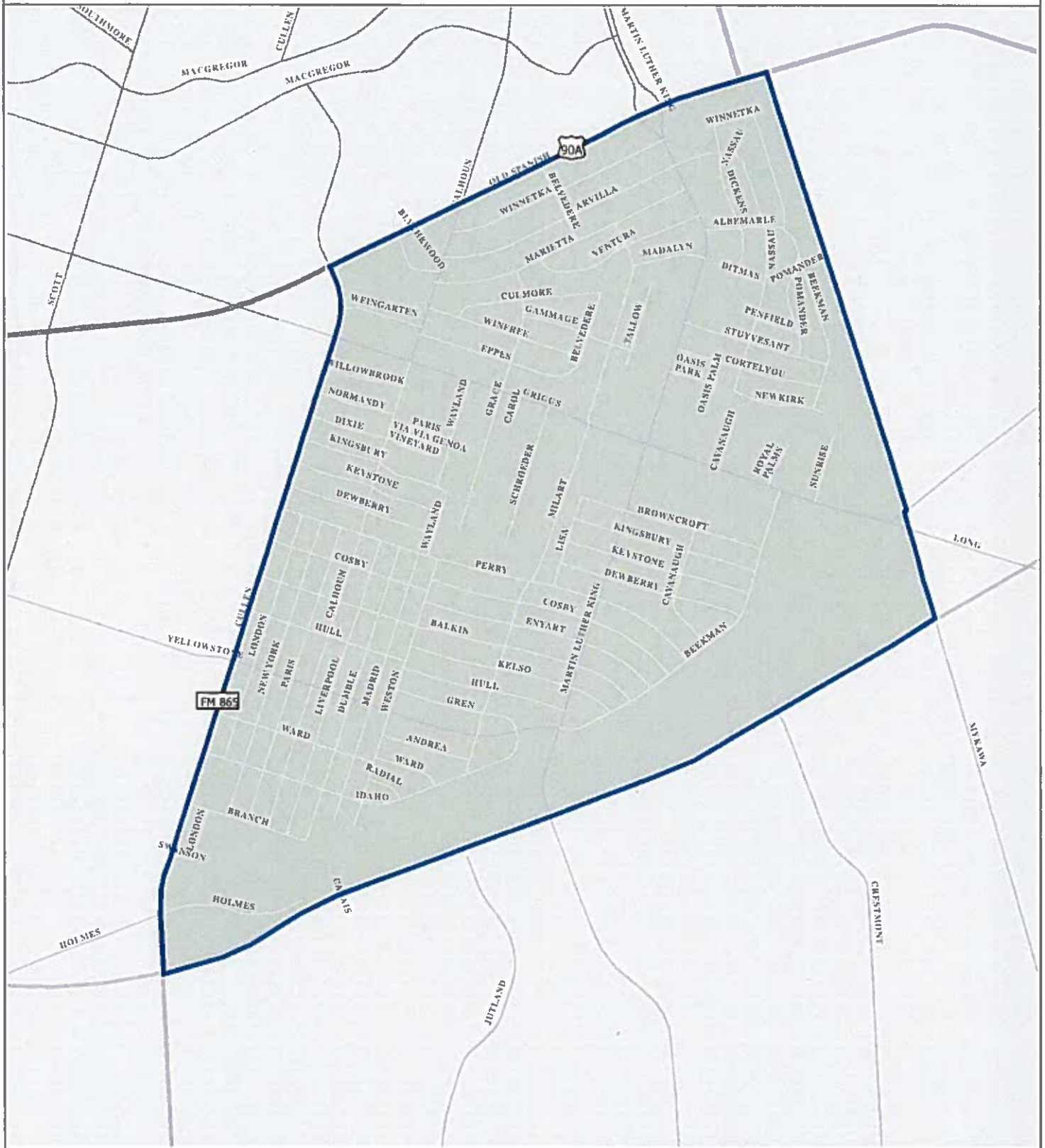


EXHIBIT A

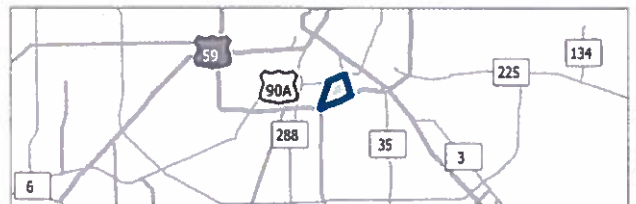


Exhibit B

Please see attached.

Acres Homes CRA Outreach Area

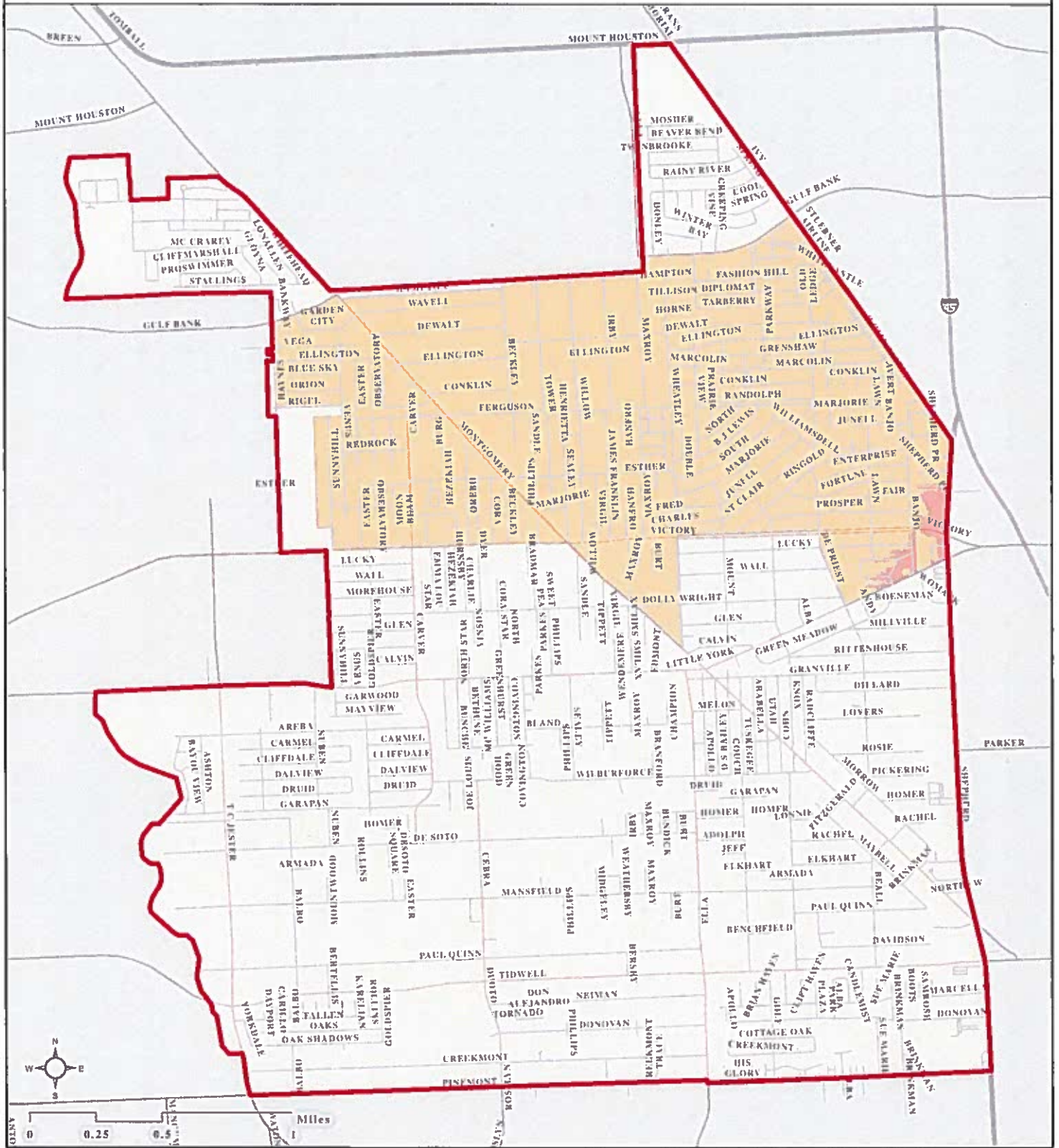
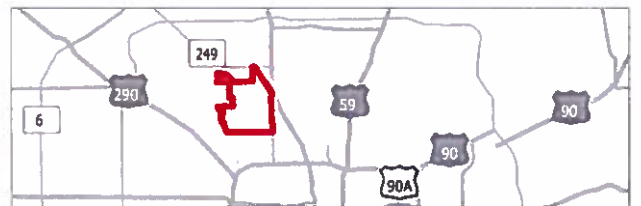


EXHIBIT B

- Primary Target Area
- Secondary Target Area
- Tertiary Target Area
- CRA Outreach Area Boundary



Greater 5th Ward CRA Outreach Area

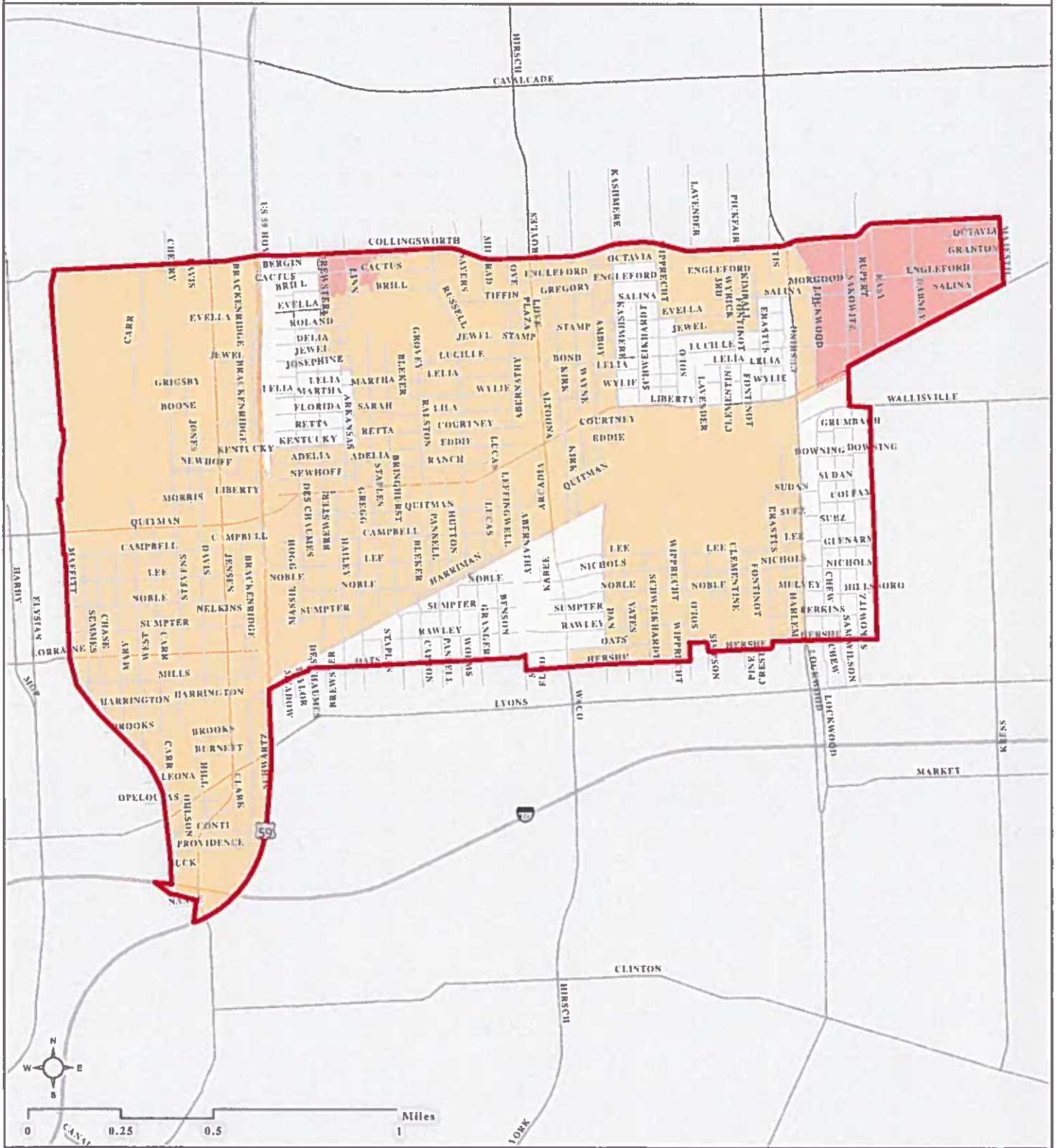
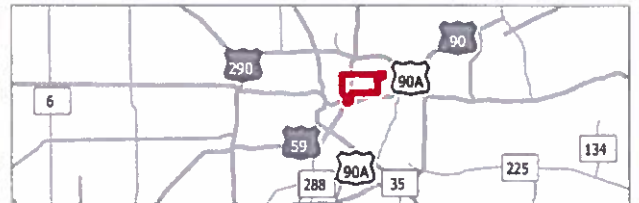


EXHIBIT B

- Primary Target Area
- CRA Outreach Area Boundary
- Secondary Target Area
- Tertiary Target Area



Independence Heights CRA Outreach Area

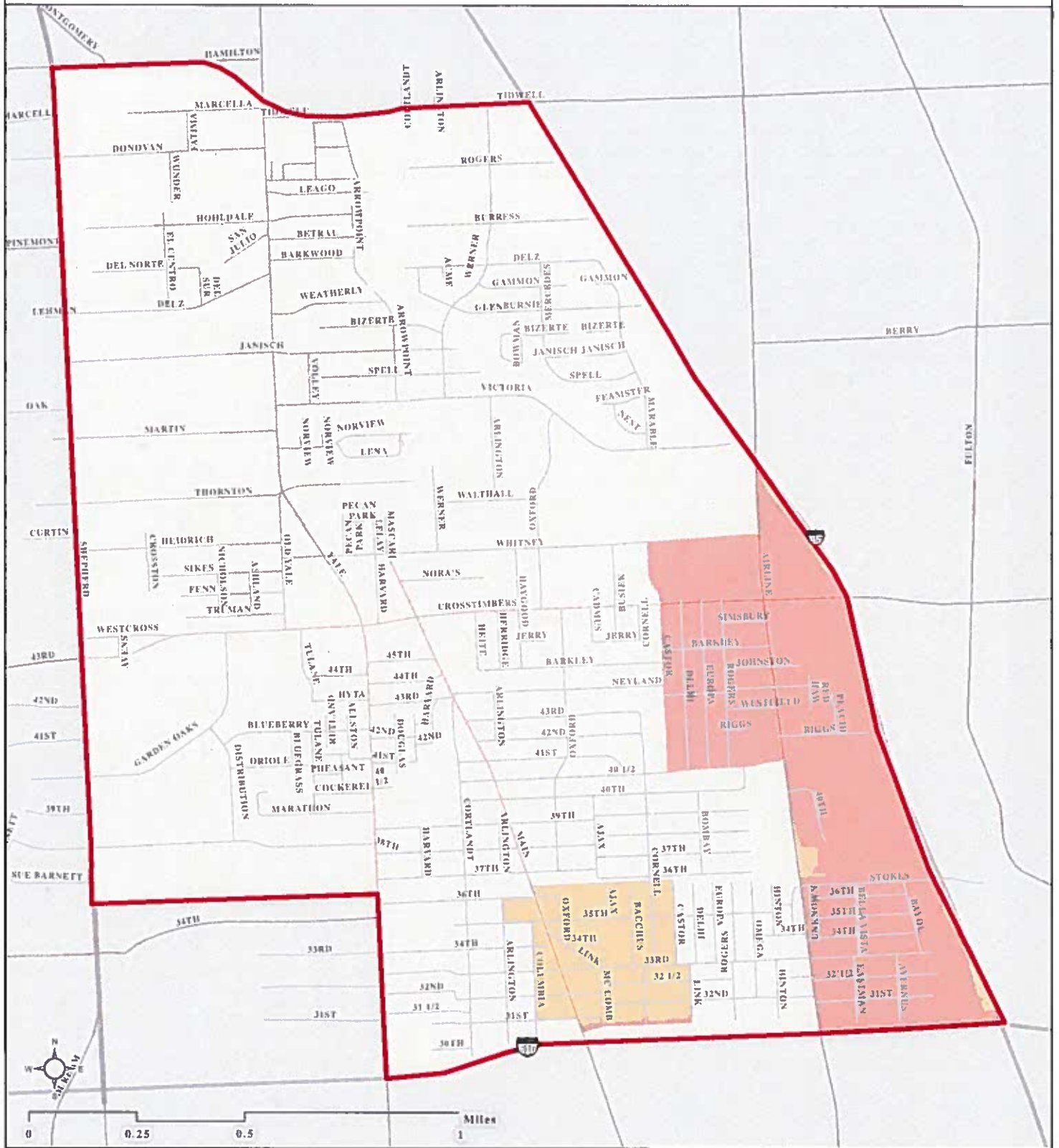
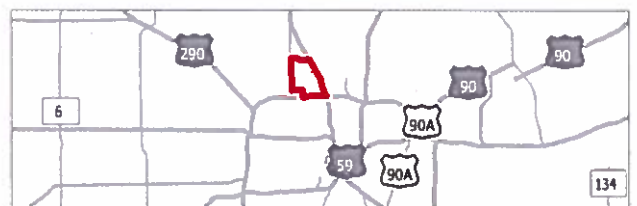


EXHIBIT B

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- CRA Outreach Area Boundary

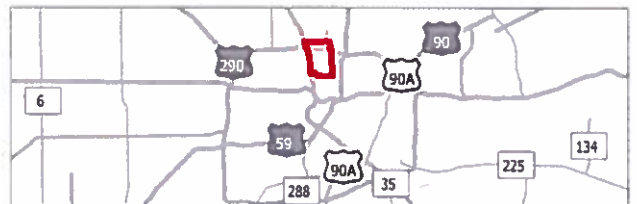


Northside Village CRA Outreach Area



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OST/South Union CRA Outreach Area

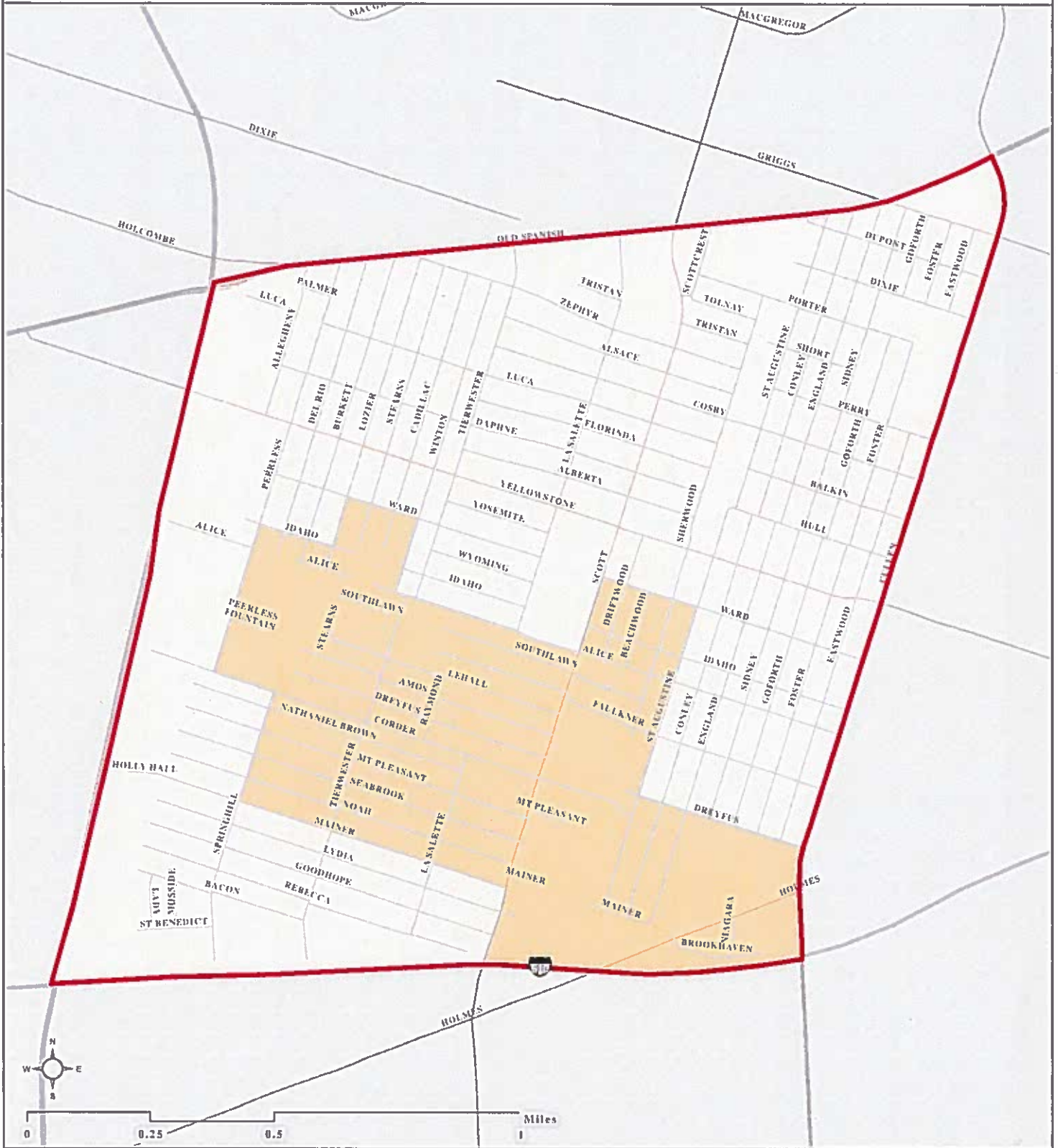
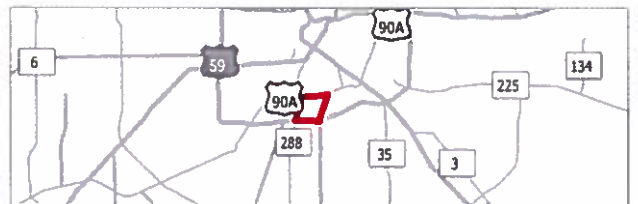


EXHIBIT B

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- CRA Outreach Area Boundary



Sunnyside CRA Outreach Area

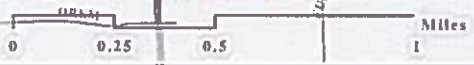
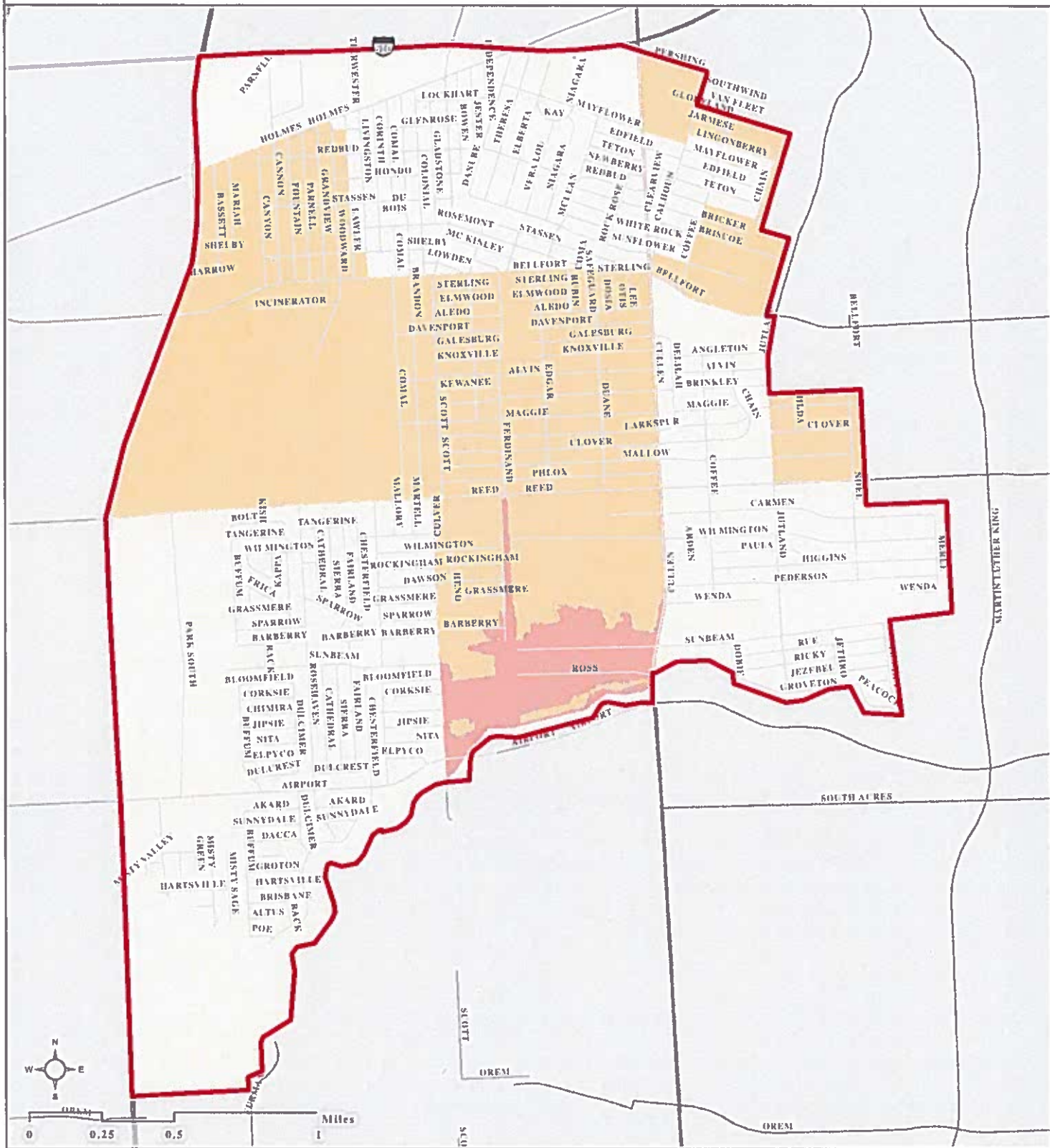


EXHIBIT B

- Primary Target Area
- Secondary Target Area
- Tertiary Target Area
- CRA Outreach Area Boundary

