# NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

October 8, 2019

City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) 2100 Travis, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Houston, TX 77002 (832) 394-6018

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about **October 16, 2019** the City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department will submit a request to the Texas General Land Office (GLO), for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Multifamily Rental Program funds authorized by the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements of 2017, Public Law 115-56 and, Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act of 2018, Public Law 115-123 through activities authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization and mitigation to undertake a project known as

**Project Title:** Bellfort Park Apartments

**Location:** 4135 West Bellfort Avenue, Houston, Harris County, TX 77025

**Purpose of Project:** The proposed project, Bellfort Park Apartments, involves the acquisition and renovation of an existing 64-unit multifamily property in southwest Houston's Braeswood Place neighborhood.

Originally constructed in 1955, the Bellfort Park Apartments consist of nine (9) two-story residential buildings placed around two central courtyards. The property has historically operated as an affordable complex serving extremely low-income residents. Due to the facility's disrepair, renovation will be required if the complex is to continue serving this vulnerable population.

The proposed scope of work includes a total modernization of the aging facility. Interior renovations will include: new HVAC systems, replacing all windows with newer double-pane windows, updated lighting, plumbing, new flooring, fresh paint and the installation of modern energy-star rated appliances. All bathrooms and kitchens will be fully renovated with new countertops, sinks, tubs, toilets and cabinetry. Exterior upgrades will include roofing as needed, a new playground, barbeque pits, picnic areas, and attractive landscaping.

Additionally, all buildings will be brought up to or exceed all city codes and significantly increase the energy efficiency of the complex. All 59 parking spaces, including 35 carport spaces, will be provided at no charge to the tenants. Six additional parking spaces are location outside of the property boundary and can be used for overflow parking. Residents will have access to a

variety of social and economic support services including career training, tax preparation, health fairs, promotion of social groups, and various recreational activities.

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-48-0001	CDBG-DR Harvey Funds	\$3,500,000.00
TDHCA #19076	LIHTC (Non-HUD)	\$7,361,823.00
Permanent Loan (Citibank)	N/A	\$3,150,000.00
In-Kind Equity/Deferred Developer Fee	N/A	\$71,225.00
Total Source of Funds		\$14,083,048.00

Amount of HUD Funding Requested: \$3,500,000.00

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(5) from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. This project could not convert to exempt most notably due to potential asbestos and lead mitigation stemming from age. Hence a public notice is required and a Request for Release of Funds (RROF) must be sent to GLO, acting in the role of HUD. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department, 2100 Travis, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments to the City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department, ATTN: Environmental Review Officer, 2100 Travis, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Houston, Texas 77002. All comments received by the close of **October 15, 2019** will be considered by the City of Houston prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of Houston certifies to GLO, acting in the role of HUD that Sylvester Turner, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. GLO's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Houston Housing Authority, as grant recipient, to use Program funds.

#### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

GLO will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Houston certification received

by the close of **October 30, 2019** or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of Houston approved by GLO/HUD;

(b) the City of Houston has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to: **Texas General Land Office, 3429 Executive Center, Suite 150, Austin, Texas 78731.** Potential objectors should contact the GLO to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Sylvester Turner, Mayor City of Houston