

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made its final landfall near Port Arthur, Texas, and the Category 4 storm enveloped Harris County, dropping between 26 to 47 inches across the county and causing 37 deaths in Harris County; and

WHEREAS, while Harvey caused more than \$125 billion of damage across multiple states, the Harris County area experienced by far the bulk of that damage, with an estimated 40 percent of the total damage occurring in the region; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 which included \$4.3 billion in disaster recovery funds to be used for mitigation purposes, designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation, or CDBG-MIT, funds; and

WHEREAS, Gov. Greg Abbott gave authority to administer the allocated CDBG-MIT dollars in Texas to the Texas General Land Office, which developed the formula with which the funds were to be allocated; and

WHEREAS, Harris County and the Harris County Flood Control District collectively submitted \$915 million in applications for mitigation projects to the General Land Office for consideration for CDBG-MIT funds; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2021, General Land Office Commissioner George P. Bush announced the first tranche of nearly \$1 billion in CDBG-MIT allocations, and included zero dollars for any applications submitted by Harris County or the Harris County Flood Control District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Houston, the largest jurisdiction in Harris County, was also denied CDBG-MIT funds;

BE IT RESOLVED, Harris County Commissioners Court condemns the decision of the Texas General Land Office to deny Harris County federal funds intended to save lives and protect homes in Harris County and calls for the GLO to change the allocation scoring criteria, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Harris County Commissioners Court calls for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to reconstitute further allocations of CDBG-MIT funds approved in the 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act as direct allocations to Harris County and the City of Houston.