City of Austin

Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council

From: Otis J. Latin, Sr., Director
Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)

Date: December 4, 2015

Subject: Update on 2015 Halloween Flood Recovery

I want to update you on several important steps in our recovery from the 2015 Halloween Flood.

The President has approved Individual Assistance for Travis County residents as well as several other Texas Counties. We are working with FEMA and our Travis County partners to ensure that our residents are aware of the declaration and how they can apply for assistance.

Starting today, FEMA outreach teams will be working in the community. They have pledged to attempt individual contact at every residence that has reported damage to the City. If they are unable to reach someone at the residence, they will leave "door hangers" of information in English and Spanish. Their mission is to explain the availability of FEMA assistance programs. They will also offer to complete the registration onsite when they meet the resident. They will be able to offer this assistance in English and Spanish.

The Health and Human Services Department's case workers are contacting each of their clients to ensure they know how to apply for assistance and to encourage them to do so.

Victims may continue to contact FEMA directly. They should register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or via smartphone or web-enabled device at m.fema.gov. Applicants may also call 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 1-800-462-7585.

We are finalizing plans for establishment of a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center here in Austin. Victims will be able to register for Federal assistance at the center. FEMA personnel answer questions about their Federal recovery programs. We anticipate this center will open early next week. We will update you as details are confirmed.

HHSD caseworkers continue to work alongside our voluntary agency partners to ensure that all possible local resources are available to assist the victims in their recovery.

Finally, we anticipate that FEMA teams will be here next week to begin their assessment of damage to public (government) facilities. At this time there is no Presidential Declaration for Public Assistance. It is unclear if the State of Texas and Travis County will meet the needed thresholds to qualify for this assistance.

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Assistant City Managers
Chief of Staff