

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

October 20, 2020

City of Houston,

Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD)

2100 Travis St., 9th floor

Houston, TX 77002

(832) 394-6018/(832)394-6183

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the *City of Houston, HCDD.*

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about **November 5, 2020** 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 Canal Lofts.

Project Location: 5601 Canal Street, Houston, Texas 77011 (29.745601, -95.317060)

Project description: The proposed project, Canal Lofts, includes land acquisition, demolition of existing structures and new construction of a 150-unit mixed income multifamily development. The complex will consist of two (2) four-story elevator-served buildings on approximately 2.8 acres.

The newly designed complex will include 56 one-bedroom, 71 two-bedroom and 23 three-bedroom units. All units will feature a full kitchen and bathroom with private entrances from an interior hallway. The project will include 240 parking spaces across surface parking and a first level parking garage under the residential buildings, which is sufficient to meet anticipated demand. Complex amenities will include a clubhouse, community room, fitness center, a resort style swimming pool, business center, game room, firepit and multiple outdoor grilling stations.

The subject property is currently developed with two industrial warehouses whereas at least 95% of the ground surface is covered with concrete paving and foundations. Both warehouses will be demolished, and all paving will be removed so the surface can be regraded, and new updated underground utilities will be installed.

The City of Houston has classified the project as an Environmental Assessment (24 CFR 58.36, subpart E) subject to laws and authorities at 24 CFR 58.5, 24 CFR 58.6, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, and the additional EA Factors discussed by HUD.

Approximately \$12,000,000 of CDBG-DR17 funds, Grant No, B-17-DM-48-0001, for Hurricane Harvey Multifamily Disaster Recovery, will be utilized for this project and the total development cost is estimated at \$34,425,000.00. Please note that this project is expected to include Housing Tax Credit Syndication Proceeds.

This project proposes to use the following funding, including:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| \$12,000,000.00..... | CDBG DR-17 (City of Houston request) |
| \$14,248,575.00..... | 9% Housing Tax Credit LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credit) |
| \$446,425.00..... | Deferred Developer Fee |
| \$7,730,000.00..... | Conventional Loan (Amegy Bank) |
| \$34,425,000.00..... | TOTAL |

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Houston has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR). The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to P.O. Box 1562, Houston, TX 77251-1562 or 2100 Travis St., 9th Floor, Houston, TX 77002 or by email to hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department, ATTN: Environmental Review Officer, 2100 Travis, 9th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 or by email to hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov. All comments received by the close of business on **November 4, 2020** will be considered by the City of Houston prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

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 City of Houston to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

GLO, acting in the role of HUD, will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Houston certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual 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 of the City of Houston; (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 development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by GLO, acting in the role of 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, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Texas General Land Office, P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873. Potential objectors should contact GLO to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

*Sylvester Turner, Mayor
City of Houston*
