U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 6
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209

FEMA

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Andrew S. Friedberg
Mayor of Bellaire
7008 South Rice Avenue
Bellaire, TX 77401

RE: National Flood Insurance Program

Dear Mayor Friedberg:

In a letter dated October 25, 2017, we reminded Bellaire of their responsibility as a community that voluntarily participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), to enforce the substantial damage requirements of their locally adopted flood damage prevention ordinance (FDPO). We are requesting copies of Bellaire's floodplain development repair permits, elevation certificates, or other documents related to substantial damage determinations for the enclosed list of addresses.

To address the cycle of recurring flood damage to existing structures, the NFIP and your local FDPO require that substantially damaged structures located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) be treated like new construction and assure that the rebuilt structure's lowest floor is elevated to or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Such enforcement results in less flooding impacts to households and businesses. In addition, implementing sound floodplain management provides for safer, more livable communities. FEMA's publication, *Answers to Questions about Substantially Damaged Buildings*, provides information regarding the NFIP and substantially damaged buildings, and is available at http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2969.

FEMA is concerned about the flood impact from Hurricane Harvey. Enclosed with this letter is a list of addresses in Bellaire that were identified as having sustained significant amounts of damage. Please provide before February 28, 2020, the following information for each address on the enclosed Possible Substantial Damage List:

- Copies of any issued building repair permits
- Copies of the substantial damage determination and owner-notification for each address
- If not formally stated in the above-requested documents, the cost of repair and the pre-damage market value used for each substantial damage determination
- Elevation Certificates as applicable to show NFIP compliance
- Any additional information you wish for us to consider in this NFIP compliance review, thus verifying that Bellaire is fulfilling its NFIP responsibilities

Please recognize that the enclosed list of addresses and relevant information are protected according to the privacy act and are being sent to you solely for purposes related to local NFIP administration.

FEMA and the Texas NFIP State Coordinator are prepared to consult with your Floodplain Administrator and provide technical assistance. FEMA recognizes that mitigating substantially damaged buildings can be challenging and might require significant, varying resources. These resources may include grants, loans, technical assistance, flood control projects, and in-kind services, among others. However, to take advantage of funding opportunities to mitigate substantially damaged properties via Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) for NFIP policy holders, substantial damage declarations must be made by the community. Additionally, making these determinations focuses community needs for mitigation grant funding opportunities, including FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and can help the State to identify priorities for this funding.

If you have any questions you may reach Manuel Razo, Acting Texas NFIP State Coordinator, at 512-475-1850, or Mike Segner, FEMA Region 6 Floodplain Management & Insurance (FMI) Specialist, at 940-268-8368.

Sincerely,

Charles Cook

Charles Cook
FMI Branch Chief

Enclosures: Possible Substantial Damage List
ICC Fact Sheet

cc: ChaVonne Sampson, Floodplain Administrator
Manuel Razo, Acting Texas NFIP State Coordinator