

Public Notice

The City of Houston ("City"), through its Housing and Community Development Department ("HCDD"), is issuing a public notice on a conflict of interest matter regarding two persons in relation to The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County ("Coalition") receiving, or being under consideration by the City to receive Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS ("HOPWA") funds Emergency Solutions Block Grant ("ESG") funds.

- A former Chief of Staff to a sitting City Council Member who is the son of Coalition board member, Lance Gilliam
- Coalition's Director of Strategic Planning, Mark Smith, served as the Interim Special Advisor to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives from February to April 2023

HCDD is filing a request with the United States Housing and Urban Development Department for an exception to the conflict of interest prohibition under 24 CFR 570.611(d), 24 CFR 574.625(b), and 24 C.F.R. 576.404(b)(3) provided that the recipient of funds, i.e, the City, has satisfactorily met the threshold requirements as follows:

- A disclosure of the nature of the conflict, accompanied by an assurance that there has been public disclosure and a description of how the public disclosure was made; and
- An opinion of the recipient's attorney that the interest for which the exception is sought would not violate state or local law.

For additional information on the HCDD Conflict of Interest Policy, contact Kennisha London via email at Kennisha.London@houstontx.gov. Upon completion of the public disclosure, HCDD will submit the request for the approval of the conflict of interest exception.

For specific questions or concerns about fair housing or landlord/tenant relations, please contact Yolanda Guess-Jeffries at (832) 394-6200 ext 5. For any information about our Complaints and Appeals Process, please access the following: <https://houstontx.gov/housing/complaints.html> and <https://houstontx.gov/housing/appeals.html>. For more information about HCDD and its programs, please access HCDD's website at www.houstontx.gov/housing.