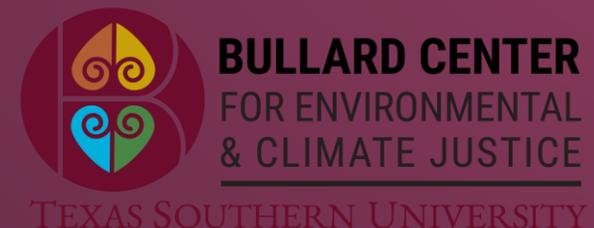


# COMMUNITY-LED DISASTER SOLUTIONS IN NORTHEAST HOUSTON

HUEY WILSON  
KEITH DOWNEY  
BRIDGETTE MURRAY  
JAMES CALDWELL  
DENAE KING, PHD



**The Bullard Center works to promote**

**JUSTICE**

- **Environmental – Air, Water and Soil**
- **Climate**
- **Economic**
- **Energy**
- **Transportation**
- **Food**
- **Health Equity**
- **Eliminate Structural Inequality and Systemic Racism**



**Bullard Center for  
Environmental and  
Climate Justice**

# What is Climate Justice?

“**Climate justice**” acknowledges climate change can have differing social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on vulnerable populations.

The **Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University** works to address these inequities by working collaboratively with impacted communities on mitigation and adaptation strategies that are developed and led by leaders and residents.

Memorial Day Flood (2015)  
6,000 structures flooded, 7 deaths



Tax Day Flood (2016)  
9,820 structures flooded, 7 deaths



*Repeated Natural Disasters*  
have resulted in many  
homes experiencing  
flooding in Northeast  
Houston neighborhoods,  
such as Fifth Ward,  
Kashmere Gardens, Trinity  
Gardens, and Pleasantville.

Hurricane Harvey (2017)  
154,000 homes flooded, 100+ deaths



Tropical Storm Imelda (2019)  
3,990 homes flooded, 5 deaths



# Northeast Houston Redevelopment Council (NEHRC)



**Ms. Huey Wilson and Mr. Keith Downey**

# Hurricane Harvey - 2017



**A once-in-1,000-year flood event**

**33 trillion** gallons of rain

**\$125 billion** in damage

**154,000** homes flooded

**100+** deaths

**75** Houston schools closed  
due to damage

**Impacted communities in  
Northeast Houston are still  
working to recover.**

# NEHRC: DISASTER SOLUTIONS

## Recovery Initiatives Designed to Address Unmet Needs

- Coordinated recovery assistance (case management) for five Houston zip codes with minimal FEMA assistance and severe unmet needs – simple applications
  - Utilized Trinity Gardens Church of Christ and the Kashmere Multiservice Center as Resilience Hubs
  - Addressed needs onsite by providing assistance with registration and eligibility for disaster resources
  - Worked with partners such as, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Rebuilding Together Houston, and West Street Recovery
  - Provided regional assistance in other impacted areas – Lake Charles, LA
  - Coordinated Mut and Gut, Food, and Transportation Assistance
  - Facilitated assistance with City of Houston/Baker Ripley/FEMA – difficult process
  - Assessed Capacity of NEHRC for disaster response – then and now

NEED HELP AFTER HARVEY?



NEIGHBORHOOD  
RESTORATION  
CENTER

EVERY WEDNESDAY

RESOURCE LINKING	HOME REPAIR AND REBUILDING
HOUSING COUNSELORS	WORKFORCE AGENCIES
SOCIAL SERVICES	MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS
SELF-SERVE RESOURCES	LEGAL AID
EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS	SPECIAL EVENTS

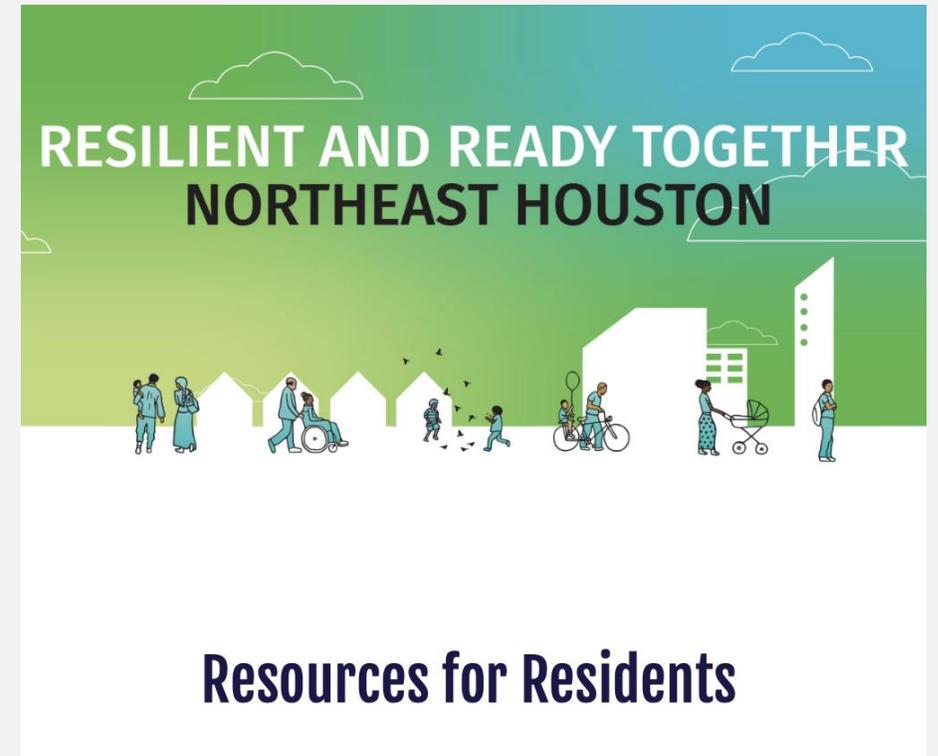
KASHMERE MULTI-SERVICE CENTER  
4802 LOCKWOOD DR  
9 AM - 7 PM



# NEHRC: DISASTER SOLUTIONS

## Resilience Hub Initiative

- Training on Resilience Hubs
- Disaster Information Access – RCC
- Solar and Rain Garden - Kashmere Multiservice Center
- Food Security – Target Hunger
- CERT Training for Residents
- Building Capacity with Additional Hub Locations to Prepare, Respond and Recover from Disasters



# Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS)



**Ms. Bridgette Murray**

## Why consider vulnerable communities that experience repeated flooding?



- **Pleasantville** was established in 1948, and is one of the first African American deed-restricted developments.
- Located very close to the Houston Ship Channel and two major highways.
- Experience recurring flooding caused by roadway design and climate change (extreme weather events).
- Residents are 94% people of color, and the median income is \$41,000.
- 15% of residents are age 65+.

# Why consider vulnerable communities that experience repeated flooding?

## 175 Pleasantville, Clinton Park, and Port Houston residents surveyed (2021)

- 73% of households reported they were not well prepared for another emergency.
- 29% of households reported having flood insurance.
- As a result of **Hurricane Harvey (48.5%)** and **Winter Storm Uri (49.0%)** reported damage to their homes.
- **33.0%** were able to completely repair their home.
- **40.6%** of residents reported paying out of pocket for home repairs.
- **15.5%** of residents reported “cost of repairs” as the reason their home had not been repaired.
- Mold growth was reported in **28.3%** of households.

# Manmade Disasters



forced voluntary evacuations of the Pleasantville n  
ne was injured in the blaze.



# Disaster preparedness: Multi-disaster plan

**ACTS completed a plan with a focus on the Pleasantville community for people who choose to stay or are vulnerable and must stay in place during disasters.**

1. **Emergency Hotspot / WIFI** for use by residents to communicate with family and friends.
2. **Ambulance, EMS personnel**, enough supplies for assessing (250 estimate) persons medical needs that aren't able to evacuate, timely or injured.
3. **High water vehicles** (2 units) evacuation out of community.
4. **Heavy equipment crew** (1) for down trees, clearing street right of way, and debris removal, include (4) chain saws, and (4) 14 yd. dump trucks. This crew should also be able to unblock any storm water drainage inlets.
5. **Portable light towers** (2 units).
6. **Police officers** (6) security and patrolling, facility and community.
7. **Two-way radios** (5) for the Community CERT team.
8. **Bus transportation** (2) standby outside transportation if needed.
9. **Power Outage Line Crew** (2) power lines down by trees/high winds.
10. **PPE** for residents and emergency response team.
11. **ONSITE Representative** from each government entity that's supplying resources and coordinating responses within the community in the event of a manmade disaster (explosion, train derailment) or air emissions event.
12. **Community Wide Alert System** that contacts all signed up residents by LAN phone, mobile phone, text and email message system automatically.
13. **PPE** for residents and emergency response team.
14. **Food and cases of bottled water** and potable/rainwater tanks for 5 days.
15. **Trailer Porta Potty** with air conditioning, heat and ADA compliance
16. **Aerial Drone Coverage** - The drone can quickly gather data, video, assess the extent of any damages or area, responders can then better manage and deploy the resources as efficiently as possible without human risk.
17. **Backup generator** (as needed) to power Community building, outdoor basketball court, parking lot lights / designated meeting place for all residents who need resources.

# Coalition of Community Organizations (COCO)



**Rev. James Caldwell**

# Coalition of Community Organizations (COCO)

## Disaster Information Focus Groups

- How should information be shared? and Who best to share information?
- Fifth Ward, Kashmere Gardens, and Denver Harbor communities in Northeast Houston
- COCO's Block Captains – Facilitation/Recruitment

 <b>SHARING DISASTER INFORMATION</b> 	
FIFTH WARD - KASHMERE GARDENS - DENVER HARBOR	
METHOD	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEWS (KHOU 11, FOX 26, CHANNEL 2, ABC13, KPRC 2, CHANNEL 39)</li> <li>• SOCIAL MEDIA (Instagram, Facebook, and Nextdoor)</li> <li>• PHONE CALLS and TEXT MESSAGES</li> <li>• IN PERSON MEETINGS</li> <li>• WEBSITES (NOAA, YOUTUBE, AND GOOGLE)</li> <li>• OTHER: EMAILS AND RADIO</li> </ul> 
TRUSTED PEOPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAMILY MEMBERS</li> <li>• NEIGHBORS</li> <li>• COMMUNITY LEADERS (BLOCK CAPTAINS and SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD)</li> <li>• PASTORS, MINISTRY and CHURCH MEMBERS</li> </ul> 
PREPAREDNESS	 <p><b>WHO IS TRUSTED TO SHARE INFORMATION ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS?</b></p> <p>MAYOR OF HOUSTON CITY LEADERS CITY ALERT SYSTEM</p>
RESPONSE	<p><b>WHO IS TRUSTED TO SHARE INFORMATION ON DISASTER RESPONSE?</b></p> <p>AREA PRECINCTS RED CROSS/BOAT RESCUE 311 AND 211 CALLS COMMUNITY/SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS COALITON OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION</p>  
RECOVERY	<p><b>WHO IS TRUSTED TO SHARE INFORMATION ON DISASTER RECOVERY?</b></p> <p>FEMA 311 AND 211 CALLS COMMUNITY LEADERS/ELECTED OFFICIALS FINNIGAN PARK</p> 



**BULLARD CENTER  
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
& CLIMATE JUSTICE**

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# Questions/Discussion

## Sponsors

**Environmental Defense Fund**

**Houston Endowment**

**NIMHD – MIEHR Center**

**Waverly Street Foundation**



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