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Media Advisory

Hurricane Harvey Information Meeting
Hosted by Senators Joan Huffman and Paul Bettencourt with
Special Guest Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

- WHO:** Lt. Governor Dan Patrick
Senator Paul Bettencourt
Senator Joan Huffman
Kevin Hannes, Federal Coordinating Officer for FEMA
Col. Paul Owen, Southwestern Division Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers
John Barton, Associate Vice Chancellor, Texas A&M, representing Rebuild Texas
Ann Idsal, Chief Clerk, Texas General Land Office
Nim Kidd, Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management
- WHAT:** A community meeting to discuss Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery efforts in West Houston. Each panelist above will give an overview of work being done by their respective agency and then a public Q&A session will follow.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- WHERE:** St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079
- NOTES:** *Each panelist will give an overview of their respective agencies efforts for Hurricane Harvey recovery. A public Q&A session will immediately follow. For example, City of Houston Mayor Turner initially proposed an 8.9% property tax rate increase on top of an estimated 5.9% appraised value increase, totaling 15.3%. The property tax rate increase would have caused Houston taxpayers to pay an additional \$113 million more on their 2017 property tax bills. Senator Bettencourt opposed any property tax rate increase and testified against a revised proposal, along with regular Houston taxpayers at a property tax hearing. After revising the proposal down to a total 9.8% increase, Mayor Turner dropped the proposed property tax rate increase entirely after an agreement with Governor Abbott who presented the City of Houston with a \$50 million disaster relief check on Friday. As noted by Senator Bettencourt, "In additional to FEMA we now have a TEMA too." Senator Bettencourt expects high attendance with lots of questions.*