



# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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Mayors Newsletter September 2018

Jersey Village: One Year after Hurricane Harvey

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

My September newsletter last year discussed how Jersey Village fared during Hurricane Harvey. Harvey was an enormous weather event that wreaked havoc on thousands of Texans along the gulf coast. Thankfully, Jersey Village homes were spared devastating flood waters due to County infrastructure improvements and timely breaks in the weather. However, as I have discussed, concentrated rain in a short period can still overwhelm bayous and detention basins. On the one year anniversary, I want to review the progress Jersey Village and Harris County have made regarding flood mitigation projects.

The Jersey Village Long Term Flood Recovery Study involves four pillars that are designed to work together. They are (1) a golf course berm (2) Wall Street corridor drainage improvements (3) White Oak Bayou (WOB) channel improvements and (4) home elevations and/or buyouts. Starting with last year's budget, the City allocated \$2 million towards flood mitigation projects with another \$2 million allocated this year. The City needs to continue allocating millions of dollars in the next several budgets for these projects. By combining the berm and Wall Street corridor improvements into a single project, the City is fortunately in line for a federal grant in excess of \$4 million. The grant is the result of the Long Term Flood Recovery Study and the work of the City Manager and staff. The berm and Wall Street corridor improvements are set to begin construction concurrently next spring.

The home elevation grants are still under review and feedback has been encouraging. Our grant application is to elevate 18 homes in Jersey Village. Only \$90 million was allocated nationwide for these types of projects. Our total grant request was \$3,355,448, or nearly 4% of the total grant amount available. We remain optimistic about the City's grant position and expect award information soon.

Of the mitigation plan's four main pillars, the City only has direct influence on the berm, Wall Street and home elevations. The project to have the greatest impact on our community will be the Harris County's WOB improvements. Last month Harris County voters approved an important \$2.5 billion flood bond. The project list includes \$1.2 billion for channel improvements, \$401 million for detention basins, \$242 million for floodplain land acquisition, \$12.5 million for new floodplain mapping and \$1.25 million for an improved early flood warning system. Another \$500 million remains unallocated, leaving engineers money to pay for projects identified in the future. County Commissioner Jack Cagle spoke at last month's Jersey Village City Council meeting to discuss the projects specific to WOB and Jersey Village. The County plans to allocate over \$500 million to WOB projects including drainage improvements through Jersey Village.

On an unrelated note, the City Manager and I sat down for an extensive interview with the Community Impact newspaper last month. Word is getting around about all of the exciting activities taking place in our community. We were able to discuss our vision for the flood strategies as well as the multiple bright spots for the City. Keep an eye out for this feature article spotlighting Jersey Village.

All the Best,

Justin Ray  
Mayor

Jersey Village, Texas