

File Name:	MitigationPublicHearing_Goldsboro12-3-19	
Number of Speakers:	multiple	
Length of file:	48:45	
Audio Category List volume, accent, N/N speakers.		
Any Comments (e.g. times of recording not needing transcription, etc. e.g.; (off the record conversation)	Verbatim: YES	Time codes: NO
	INAUDIBLES ONLY. [Inaudible 00:00:00]	
Any Problems with Recording (e.g. background noise, static, etc.	NONE	
Unusual Words or Terms: Must be completed (e.g. abbreviations, Company Names, Names of people or places, technical jargon	NONE	
Transcriber N & I:	VVTRAS DK30 US0053	
QA/QC N & I Comments	NONE	

Speaker 1: Stand or raise your hand so we can acknowledge you and thank you officially for doing that for us. And we've got Public Housing Authority officials as well, so please go ahead and raise your hand for that too. We'd be happy to acknowledge you. Thank you. Thank you. This is all possible because we have good partners and cooperation from everybody involved. Before we begin tonight, I did want to make sure that I'm very clear about what we're here to do. We are here tonight to talk about a new funding source. We call it CBDG mitigation. I'll be talking about that and a couple of other things in our presentation.

I know many of you in this room have been impacted by Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence. Unfortunately, we are not able to work on our Hurricane Florence recovery at this time because we've not been allocated funds for that activity yet. We are planning, very quickly and very -- we're focusing ahead looking at what we can do for our Hurricane Florence recovery, but tonight we're really not going to cover that topic. We are going to talk about Hurricane Matthew projects that we are able to fund with this new funding source. So we appreciate you coming, and we hope to hear from you about our Hurricane Matthew plan related to mitigation funds. But we do have your information, and we'll be looking to reach out when we do have those funds available for Hurricane Florence recovery, and we'll be talking to you then about how to apply for those funds. So, thank you for your understanding in that and with that, we'll go ahead and get started.

Tonight we're talking about that new funding source from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or HUD as you may have heard. And they have provided a new funding source to help protect against future storms. So we're going to be looking ahead to the next storm that might impact our areas here. We have completed a draft of our action plan. Our action plan is our plan to show to the public, to show all of you and to also show to HUD what we're going to do with those funds, what we intend to spend those funds on. Tonight we're going to share our draft plan with you. Very briefly, in this presentation, it's about 10 minutes long, and then we would like to hear from you about what you think about the plan so we can actually make some changes and get it as good as we possibly can before we submit to HUD on that.

So what is CDBG? You may have seen this acronym before. It stands for Community Development Block Grant and they're provided to states for many different projects and programs. The two main sources of funds that we have are CBDG-DR and CDBG-Now Mitigation, which is brand new. So you will see sometimes CDBGDR and CDBGMit. Those are the two differences in those funds. Tonight we're going to be talking about CDBGMit.

So what do we mean when we say mitigation? We're talking about activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property and suffering and hardship by lessening the impact of future disasters. So there it is again. We're trying to look ahead. This definition comes to us from HUD. So using these funds, they're not for directly repairing or recovering from damage to storms. Instead we're looking ahead and trying to prevent future damage. So these are a new source of funds. HUD has released these rules for the first time for our review on August 30, 2019. That wasn't actually that

long ago. A hundred and sixty-eight million dollars was allocated for our use, for the state's use, for these mitigation funds for the most impacted areas for Hurricanes Matthew and Florence; which we're able to spend the money in Florence impacted areas as well. We completed, Encore completed, Rebuild NC completed the draft action plan on November 7, 2019 and we talked a little bit about how those funds are used in that action plan and it's available online for your review. We have printed copies here tonight as well and we have it in English and in Spanish.

I don't know -- I clicked it -- there we go.

So how are we going to use these funds? Our approach, and this is the actual funding breakdown here, I'll make it very quick and simple if I can. But \$8.4 million to use for operations. That is a limit that HUD sets for the grant. So we don't have a lot of control over that. That is just something that HUD sets for us, in a way. For planning activities, we want to use some of those funds for planning activities. So we're matching the first part of the grant to do some additional planning. Then our two main focuses, and you'll see right there, \$109 million for property buyout programs to be administered and run by our program and then to help out with those buyout programs and affordable housing development programs, so new housing created with \$42 million.

So just very quickly, how these funds can be used or how we're intending to use them. Half of the funds are going to be spent in the most impacted and distressed areas. That's set by HUD as well. So half of our funds are going to be in the most heavily hit areas for Matthew and Florence. Half of our buyout funds will be spent buying out low to moderate-income individual households and that is 80 percent of the area median income. We can help you understand that a little bit better. A case manager may be able to explain that a little bit more easily to you and tell you whether you are LMI or not or 80 percent area median income or less or not. And 100 percent of our available funds for the affordable housing initiative will be spent on lower-income individuals, so half of our buyout funds on lower-income individuals and households, 100 percent of our funds for housing are on lower-income individuals.

So just a note about our approach to the buyout program. Sixty-five percent of the entire grant is going to be allocated for buyout. Our goal, with those funds, is to buy out about 600 to 900 properties -- 600 to 900 vulnerable homes in specific areas that we are working with local municipalities, local cities and local counties to find the best areas to use those funds with. We'll pay the pre-storm fair market value of the home and we'll also provide additional funds to help people relocate to a safer area or buy a new home in a safer area and a case manager will be assigned to individuals who qualify for this program to help them through that process. Once a property's bought out it's converted into green space forever so you can be sure that your neighbors are better protected, the community is better protected and that the property's going to help make the surrounding area safer in general.

To go along with that, we understand that we'll be purchasing quite a bit of property, quite a bit of residential property where people live. We want to make sure people still have options nearby

these buyout areas that are affordable to them. To help with that, we've allocated \$32 million of the grant to build new multifamily housing. That could be a number of different projects. We're working on, with our partner, NCHFA, to determine which projects we can fund with those funds. Another \$10 million will be going to public housing authorities to help with their recovery efforts. So that may be rebuilding somewhere safer or relocating units out of vulnerable areas like the floodplain, so they don't flood again.

So we want to help our PHA partners with that. And the goal is to have these housing programs nearby our buyout so that people don't have to leave the communities they really love being a part of. So that's very important to us. We're going to work as hard as we can to get those affordable housing developments near our buyout areas. We'll also combine these funds with other funds available, whether they're private funds or other funds that are available to do this housing to get as many units built as possible. So we won't be the only funding source doing these kinds of activities.

And so this is where you come in. Thank you very much for coming. We are considering all public comments in the finalized action plan, so whether you speak them tonight during the public comment portion, whether you email them in, whether you write them and provide them to a staff member for Rebuild NC, they are all going to be addressed and part of the action plan in some way. Your input is very important to us. The action plan public comment period is open through Monday, December 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

So please, if you do have a public comment, submit it to us before that deadline, and if you would like your public comment part of the record tonight, that is for the public comment period, which we'll be opening as soon as we end this presentation here. Your public comment will still be addressed, as I said, but if you wanted to speak it and be heard tonight, that's what we'd like to hear from you. So if you'd signed up, we'll take them in order of sign-up and then if you do change your mind and you'd like to speak, we will allow you to speak if you didn't sign up.

After we finish our action plan, we'll be getting all of your public comment in, we'll be tweaking the plan a little bit, making some important changes based on your feedback, making sure HUD is really happy with our plan, we're going to send it to HUD the week of December 30th, 2019, before the new year begins. HUD will probably review for about 60 days and then let us know if there is something we need to address. Otherwise, we'll be entering a grant agreement with HUD and that allows us to expend these funds -- allows us to spend the funds on the activities that we've proposed in the plan.

All right, and that is the end of the presentation. What we'd like to do, we'll take a couple of minutes here so to get everything set up and we'll call you up in the order that you've presented. Speakers will have three minutes to speak, and that's just a way to keep everything fair so that we can move on to the next comment. We will record your comments for the public record and we will make sure that they make it into the action plan.

So when your name is called, please come up to the podium. I don't believe the microphone is on, so if you could speak up that would wonderful. If you're not comfortable coming to the podium, you can stand in place and address as well. But this is purely public comment so if you do have a question for us, please reach us offline from this and we'll answer your question. We won't be able to answer your questions if you have them tonight. So, right, it's three minutes then if you'll look here at the cards, we'll have a countdown for you so you can kind of stay on track with your talking. CJ, please.

CJ: Welcome to the public comment period for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. The first person that signed up for public comment is Tim Harrington. Tim Harrington has signed up for public comment. Please step forward, you have three minutes to speak.

Tim Harrington: Well, I pretty well vented to Channel 11, but I'm an unhappy camper. It's been over three years. I would think with as many floods as we've had, and other states having floods too, we would have learned and had a plan. Nobody I don't believe in this room knows any more than I do. That tells me nobody's had a plan. Nobody's told anybody anything. You're just sitting there wondering and there's like a carrot in front of your nose. "We're working. What we have, Mr. Harrington here is step three. Oh, now you're at four." Now I'm on five forever.

I'm still, I don't know nothing, I don't know one little bit. It would seem, it looks like you guys, you know, fix houses and stuff. You're reaching in a hat and pulling out -- oh, we're going out here, Maple Lane or whatever. Nobody knows what's going on. It looks like you get all this money as a big pie and you start dividing it on up. I thought we started out with FEMA, now we got HUD, now we got to go through the handbook. Nobody can keep track of it. It's all government bureaucracy. And because it's the government, I guess that's why it's screwed up. Well, that's all I got to say.

CJ: Thank you for your comment, sir. Next person up for public comment is Tony McDaniel. Tony McDaniel, please step forward for public comment. You have three minutes to speak. Another call for Tony McDaniel signed up for public comment. I'll make one final call to the audience for Tony McDaniel for public comment. I'm not seeing anyone step forward, we'll move forward to the next person who signed up for public comment, Edward Semarty [Ph]?

Speaker 4: Cromartie.

CJ: Cromartie? You know it's going to get along huh?

Edward Cromartie: Well, I'm not so sure that I should have signed up. My main intent was to come and do a lot more listening than talking. I serve as County Commissioner District Two that comes from Duplin County line up into the lower part of Goldsboro and I -- my stress on this is that every time we have any major rain, and especially the hurricanes that come by, there's some

massive flooding that takes place, left and right of 117, right on up into Goldsboro and that's distressful to ride by that and see that.

I've worked all the last couple years for a couple of gentlemen that lives in Dudley and I have visited in one of those homes and he's into his second having to leave and to live in a hotel and the water was up three or four feet up on his wall and having to do that total, cleaning out, renovating and then having to deal with more than one pain and I know there are other folks here because I read some literature that the other folks that had to deal with the same kind of things. My concern is that, and I'm glad, I hope I'm glad to hear about this one. That we're going to do something to prevent and I hope that that word mitigation means that we're going to try to do something that's gonna prevent the massive flooding.

I'll close by saying this; I'm not going to go all the way into my [inaudible 00:16:18]. We have our mayor here, and I'm not going to get all the way into my auto but I would say this. The last storm that came by I took my camera out and drove around Mount Olive and there were yards that looked like lakes and because the ditches filled up with water and there's no exit place for them to go then the water sits there and the whole time -- and it takes all that time to dry up and that's just not the answer to this. And somehow or another I hope and pray that we're going to have to come up with some money. It's not going to take a little bit of money, it's going to take a lot of money and bring the heavy equipment that will cut some ditches. It needs someplace to go through the [inaudible 0:17:04.3] and into the ocean. I'm not authoritative on any of that but thank you for letting share that.

CJ: Thank you for your public comment. Next person that signed up for public comment is Arnold Flowers. Arnold Flowers, please step forward for public comment. You have three minutes to speak.

Arnold Flowers: My son, Arnold A. Flowers Jr., who now lives in Leland, North Carolina, lived at 1443 Arrington Bridge Road in Dudley along with his wife and three small children. And their home was flooded in Hurricane Matthew in October of 2016. The house was owned by me and they were paying \$500 a month and after being flooded they were forced to pay \$900 a month rent for another place to live. The house was finally bought by FEMA in October of 2019, three years after it was flooded. My son was told his family qualified for help with the difference in the rent and some moving cost, a total of about \$7,000, and doing a lot of paperwork and providing a lot of verification, at a very difficult time in their lives, they have, to this date, not received that promised help.

Going forward with a plan, the biggest problem I see is the amount of time it takes for families to get any help. My son had to pay the rent and moving costs three years ago and any help he gets now will be greatly appreciated but it was truly needed at the time he actually had to pay it. So, since I have a little bit more time, what I would like to say to HUD and in all of their planning, do not forget about the human element in what you are trying to do. This is humanitarian aid. And

when people are flooded out, to demand a tremendous amount of paperwork and bureaucracy from them and, their receipts are flooded. I mean, my family, their family pictures were flooded but they were asked to provide rent receipts and water bill receipts and all of these things. Two years later, at a really difficult time in their life, and this is a man and his wife and three small children, at the time that they were flooded, their children were two, seven and eight. Alright, it seems like, in this whole process, the human element, the element of getting people help when they need it, immediately upon the disaster, has been lost. Thank you.

CJ: Thank you for your comment. Is Viola Figueroa back?

Speaker: She just stepped out.

Viola Figueroa: Sorry. Life is happening. Hi. I don't want to turn my back to anyone. I'm Viola Rouse-Figueroa. I have spoken before the NAACP, the General Assembly, before the county commissioners, I spoke at the Maxwell Center and I also spoke to ABC News. Well, since speaking with all of these people, as of January, my husband succumbed to some of the issues that he was getting from the FEMA trailer that we was living in. So, may I ask why not go and try to get money from FEMA, because of the FEMA trailer? Well, the first paper that we signed on February the 3rd, 2017 was that I would not hold FEMA or any of its agencies against any medical issues that I would have from living in one of their units.

June of 2018 I was told that I had to either pay to purchase the FEMA trailer that I was living in or I would become homeless. So we gathered the money and we bought the FEMA trailer we lived in. Safe to say, my 74-year-old mother, every day that she wishes to use the bathroom and take a shower, just common day stuff, she has to plunge because she never knows what's going to come out of the shower when she's in the shower, or out of the sink when she's brushing her teeth.

Like I said, I had to lay my husband to rest in January. June 26th, I had a massive heart attack. Came hurricane season, September 11th, I had a massive stroke. So, I'm dealing with all of this four days after getting out of Vivint, I didn't appeal because they told my mom that we still should have \$11,000 that she got from the house because it was flooded. She should still have that money to put into escrow on step five - I'm on step five -- so I feel you, if you're on step three. She should still have that money available, and because she does not, we didn't appeal since October the third. December the first, two days ago, well yesterday, I'm sorry -- I get a letter saying that they have the appeal, it would take them thirty days from the appeal date, which in my calculation -- I'm not the smartest person, but my calculation would make that November the third, they would have a decision.

My reply to them is that it has been thirty days times two and I still have not gotten an answer on our appeal. One last thing, I know my time is up, is that they told me, we lived in a two-story house. I said: "No, we only have a one-story." They say your crawl space is considered your first

floor. I have never cooked, I have never walked upon our crawlspace, so how FEMA and Allstate and all those other places are considering that we live in a two-story house, is beyond me. So I feel your pain, you may see me speak again before clowns are meant to own, but I feel you guys pain and I just want to give you a glimpse again of what's going on in the Figueroa household. Thank you.

CJ: Thank you for your comments. Mr. Honeycutt who signed up for public comment. Please step forward. You have three minutes to speak.

Craig Honeycutt: Good evening. My name is Craig Honeycutt and I'm the County Manager for here in Wayne County and on behalf of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners and Commissioner Cromartie we would like to thank y'all for coming here today to hear our concerns and requests on how to best use the CDBG Mitigation funding. As Commissioner Cromartie said, our board is very concerned about flood prevention and mitigation circumstances around our streams, ditches, and rivers. We have worked tirelessly with Golden Leaf to obtain some grant funding for the cleanout. Approximately \$400,000. However, that is not enough to do all that needs to be done.

We still have numerous streams and tributaries within our county that really do -- and ditches that need to be cleaned out. We also have smaller ditches that need to be cleaned out, especially in the southern part of the county in the Dudley area that we have had, as Commissioner Cromartie said, once we have large water events, we have a lot of standing water, especially in the southern part of our county. And again, we're not engineers but we believe that we must look at large projects as well, such as dredging the Neuse and Little Rivers if we were to truly look at mitigation. We're concerned with the upstream discharges also from Falls Lake and how discharges affects us, especially during hurricanes. Basically, if it affects Falls Lake, it affects us here in Wayne County. Again, thank you for listening to our concerns and let us know if we can be of any help.

CJ: Thank you for your comments. There's no others that signed up for public comment but I'll make a call to the audience. Is there anyone who would like come forward for public comment? Please come forward. Please state your name for the record when you come forward.

Ada Coley: Excuse me. I'm Ada Coley. This is my husband, Bruce Coley. We have received two award letters from things we did on our house to make it livable after being away from home three weeks. After Hurricane Matthew, we gave all of our documentations of the things that we had done and after all inspections had been completed, two different award letters came. Both of them had different amounts. We appealed the decision and just last week, we received an acknowledgment that the appeal had been received. We have not received any money since Matthew. All of this involved Hurricane Matthew. We stayed out of our house about a week during Hurricane Florence, but we didn't file anything because my husband decided, he just -- the siding that came off the house -- he would just have it put on himself. Since we've been in our house, and we've been in it for...

Bruce Coley: Forty some years.

Ada Coley: Forty some years.

Bruce Coley: 1971.

Ada Coley: We have had three storms since we have lived in the house. The house next door to us was completely destroyed. We have a lot of damage all down South Johns Street and all over. Several houses have been, I mean, terribly damaged so that people can't live in them. We are very interested in a buyout. We really, the area, we're really concerned about the high price that we're having to pay for flood insurance and right now at this time of the year, we just don't know how soon there will be another flood and so we are really wondering will we be able to really if the flood insurance is -- if the flood insurance is -- if something is not done about it. You know, we wouldn't be able to even afford it. So we are very much, as I have said, I've been to the County Commissioners meeting, listened to the Sprayberry meetings and different ones but we haven't received a penny. Thank you very much and thank you all for listening.

CJ: Thank you for your comments. Making a call to the audience. Is there anyone else who would like to step forward for public comment? Please come forward and state your name. Please state your name for the record.

Doris Morgan: Good afternoon. My name is Doris Morgan. Excuse me. My house is at 1606 South Johns Street. It's been condemned since Matthew. There are condemned houses in front of me. Now, I did get an award letter. I had to appeal it. I appealed September 19th. I was supposed to get an answer November the 15. I haven't received an answer but I am really seriously concerned about all those condemned houses down there on Johns Street. Some of them right here in front of my house. Now, why would somebody wanting to build me a house in front of four or five condemned houses? Now, this doesn't make sense to me and I still am paying a house note and having to try to pay rent. It hurts. This, this, this really hurts me. I feel like something ought to be done. What is the -- what is Wayne County doing to rectify some of these areas that have been so damaged by this hurricane? What are they going to do with all of these condemned houses? Thank you.

CJ: Thank you for your comment. Make a call to the audience. Would anyone else like to come forward for public comment? I'll work my way to the back. Please step forward. If you would like to public comment if you would like you could just line up right behind the podium.

Doran Flowers: I'm Doran Flowers. I have a very brief question. I live in Fremont. Our storm sewers are dependent upon functional ditches. Will there be funds -- and I know you said you were not going to answer questions but maybe someone can afterwards. Will there be opportunities for application for funding to work on ditches that are problems with the drainage or water, especially

when there's a deluge like we have had in these past hurricanes?

CJ: Thank you for your comment. Anyone else has a public comment, please step forward, state your name for the record. Anyone else who would like to public comment, you're welcome to come forward, behind the podium.

Sylvia Barnes: Excuse me. I am Sylvia Barnes and I am with the Goldsboro/Wayne branch NAACP here in Wayne County and I am here tonight trying to learn all that I can learn so that maybe I can help answer some of the concerns that some of the people are wanting to know when they going to get help. I have been told that some people have moved out of their houses in 2016 when Hurricane Matthew came. They have not been able to move back into their house. When Hurricane Florence came last year, I understand that there are people still living in the Days Inn and some of the other hotels here in the city of Goldsboro. They have not been able to get any money. I went and I spoke with Mr. Honeycutt, who is the -- who is our County Manager a couple of weeks ago.

I have asked that we have someone to come and speak to us in a couple of weeks at what the NAACP call our annual -- each year we have to have what is called our annual meeting. He is working with me trying to get someone that can come and to answer some of these things that people are concerned, paying hotel bills, still having mortgages on their homes, even though they are not able to live in those houses. So I am very serious about trying to get some answers for these people that live here in Wayne County and I have been over to the Mount Olive and Dudley area where it rains and they have water standing in their ditches that their yards look like a lake almost. They need help also.

CJ: Thank you for your comment. Please step forward for public comment. Please state your name for the record.

Ashley Skaff: My name is Ashley Skaff. I'm an attorney with Legal Aid of North Carolina on the disaster relief project. We work with a number of clients with both FEMA issues and Rebuild. One of the concerns that our clients have discussed with the mitigation funds, sort of looking towards the future, know that the buyouts are definitely a focus, but when you are looking at, sort of the fair market value of a home, prior to the storm and you're thinking about homes, properties that have been handed down through generations, fair market value is likely to be enough, even with relocation incentives, be enough to place a person in a similar situation. So that's one big concern that we've seen.

CJ: Thank you so much for your comment. Next person, please step forward for public comment. Please state your name for the record.

Bruce Baird: My name is Bruce Baird. I live in Lenore County and my house flooded with Hurricanes Floyd, Matthew, and Florence. And in reviewing the action plan, I see that Lenore

County was declared as a federal disaster area and that Kenston was declared as one of the most impacted areas but yet we were not selected as a MID county or as a tier one county, and I find that very concerning because when there was water knee-deep in my house, we felt very tier one. And to be excluded from funds because I don't live in one of the MID counties, I don't think is right.

We are all individuals and we should be treated as individuals that suffered, not based upon what county we are. We should be treated because we flooded, not because we don't live a half-mile down the road. Craven County's about a hundred yards from my house, and yet if I lived in Craven County it's probably a tier two as well, but the point is that it shouldn't be where you live, what county you live, but the fact that you suffered. Thanks.

CJ: Thank you for those comments. Next person for public comment, please step forward and state your name for the record.

Glenda Perry: My name is Glenda Perry. I'm with a program called Hope for NC. I have a two-part comment. My first comment is for you guys. We have a lot of survivors in Duplin County and in the Dudley area that have lost their second homes now. They can't afford homeowner's insurance, even if they got the money to go buy a house, they can't afford homeowner's insurance now. And I'm not sure whether this particular grant can do anything to aid them but that is a huge concern for the people in these counties. And also my second part is for everyone in general. We provide emotional and social support for hurricane survivors so if anyone would like to get with me after this, if you need a little bit of help, let me know and thank you.

CJ: Thank you for your comment. Is there anyone else who would like to come forward for public comment?

Renee Hanson: I would like just to say one thing. I've been sitting here listening to everyone and...

CJ: Please state your name for the record.

Renee Hanson: ... Renee Hanson, I'm sorry. Arnold Flowers and this precious lady right here, we've all being in this together. We were flooded in Florence, Floyd and Matthew. You know, my thing is that they say the money is appropriated. Why can't somebody get on the stick and get something done? I mean here it's down to three years. We all have suffered. If you've lost, you've lost. It doesn't matter your race or your income, everybody has lost. We've all lost. So why can't somebody find a way, and I've shared this with John Bell, I've shared this Mike Sprayberry, I've shared this with Tom Tillis, he wrote a letter to the governor and I've got a copy of that letter. But it's time for somebody to get off the stick and put what they say to action, so all of us people that have been flooded can have some peace of life again. I'm at stage five. I know what you're talking about. The last time I called them, they said, "Well, we're sorry Ms. Hanson, you've been put on

hold.” Well, why have I been put on hold? Nobody can answer that question why I’ve been put on hold. So it’s time somebody do something about all this stuff.

Speaker: I think it’s because they’ve changed contractors for the third time.

Speaker: Yeah, that’s what that was [inaudible 00:39:21].

CJ: Thank you for your comment. Is there anyone else who would like to come forward for public comment? I’ll make another call to the audience for anyone who would like to come forward for public comment. If you would like to do so, please step forward to the podium and state your name for the record.

Serontenette Parker: Good evening. My name is Serontenette [Ph] Parker and my property is an heir property. It’s my home that I grew up in as a child. My parents, who are both deceased, worked very hard to purchase the home. The home was purchased back in the early seventies and it is a low structured brick home that sits very low on South Leslie Street. Anybody in Goldsboro knows that Leslie Street has historically and chronically flooded any time we had just some ordinary rain, not to mention the hurricanes that we have suffered over the years. And my parents’ property sustained damage tremendously from Floyd, from Matthew, as well as from the most recent one, Florence. And I had a tenant in the property, to make a long story short, she moved out the day that Matthew hit the home.

So down through the years, I’ve had the house rehabbed, I’ve spent lots of money in rehabbing the property due to the water, the water stands up to the windowsill. Because on Leslie Street, there has always been chronically, historically improper drainage, which has compounded the issue that I’m suffering today. So I have suffered a hardship financially because my tenant did move out several years ago and I didn’t know about this stage four and stage five. I don’t know what stage I’m in, all I know is they’ve explained that it’s a new process for everyone and that I’m getting more “I don’t know” versus answers. So I’m very frustrated. We have two sons in college and it has really impacted us financially, as everybody has suffered here financially, and I simply want to find resolution. Thank you.

CJ: Thank you for your comment. No one else has signed for public comment but I make a call to the audience. Is there anyone who would like to come forward for public comment at this time? I’ll make another call to the audience. Is there anyone who would like to come forward for public comment? I see no one step forward, I’ll make one and last final call for public comment. Is there anyone who would like to come forward for public comment, for the community level block grant mitigation funds? Seeing no one step forward, I will close the session for public comment and turn it over to the CEO, Ms. Laura Hogshead.

Laura Hogshead: Thank you all for coming. Thank you for sharing all of your very personal stories. I know this affects -- everything that affects your home, that is the most personal thing that

can be affected. Right? That's your home. And so we thank you for coming and we thank you for sharing your concerns. I apologize that we're not able to answer concerns from this table but we will be mingling afterwards and try to answer as many questions as we can.

I know if you have case management questions, in particular, our case managers are next door. They'll be available to you to answer questions. I know it's been frustrating. I absolutely know that. There have been a lot of fits and starts. What I can say to you now is that folks that are in step five, folks that are in step four, we do have a new contract; we have new contractors. They are working through this as expeditiously as possible to get you good answers and I want to make sure that we get those to you so you have our commitment and I really appreciate your openness and your patience with us. Thank you.

CJ: That ends the session for public comment for community development block grant mitigation funds. Thank you for attending.

[Off mic 00:42:49 - 00:48:45]