



Mayor's Office

Bill Bazzi
Mayor

July 4, 2021

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: State of Emergency - City of Dearborn Heights, Michigan's Hazardous Flooding Conditions

Dear President Biden,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits.

As you know, the June 24th and 25th storms that impacted several Michigan cities has left many of our citizens devastated. The storm brought extreme flooding to Dearborn Heights, causing sewage water to erupt both inside our residents' homes, as well as their outdoor areas (which have been referred to as "sewage lakes").

I visited many homes over the past week and a half and have found people coping with unsanitary water and foul odor, in addition to severe damage to their personal property, having witnessed appliances, personal belongings, and family memorabilia floating in this filth. I visited one such home that was so severely damaged, that its foundation had shifted – and I asked the residents to leave the home immediately in fear it could collapse. In addition, countless residents have been left without electricity, hot water, washers/dryers, or air conditioning in extreme heat and humidity. Sadly, some of these are senior citizens and people with significant health conditions.

Mister President, our city needs emergency resources to help clear these residents' homes, make them habitable, and remove the damaged property from their curbsides. We are working around the clock with extremely limited resources compared to the amount of work that needs to be done. *These residents are in dire need of relief, and NOW!*

I am a proud United States Marine Corps Veteran, having served in many countries over my 21 years of service. I can honestly tell you, walking into these homes in Dearborn Heights was a stark reminder of some of the war-torn third world countries I served in. As a member of our Military, we proudly operated with the knowledge we could be activated and deployed overseas (with boots on the ground) within 48 hours of an emergency. It has now been over a week since Dearborn Heights was hit with this unusually severe flooding, and yet we remain in limbo amid this widespread damage – all while doing our best to utilize and repurpose our own limited resources.

Our government releases billions of dollars in military aid and other resources to assist those around the world during times of crisis and natural disasters. Please, Mister President, help me understand why our own residents must wait weeks (and sometimes months) before they can begin to realize any type of relief from our Federal Government.

As the new Mayor of this great community, it is unfathomable to me that our tax paying residents are living in these conditions on American soil – without adequate resources for restoration or to make their homes habitable.

Last week, I requested the U.S. National Guard's assistance and was told that it would come with an astronomical price tag – which, of course, our city and its residents are not able to pay. It is unconscionable to ask residents, who at no fault of their own, are living through this devastation, only to learn they have to pay our own National Guard for assistance.

As a United States Marine, I never asked our country for anything in return for my service to the people. However, as a Mayor I am now imploring you to help me assist the devastated people of my city.

Our residents have not only been hit by this recent flood, many have also been plagued by floods countless times before while living in Dearborn Heights—a place some have called home for decades. Many of these floods brought continuous devastation, filth, unsanitary conditions, mold, rodents, loss of property and the physical destruction of their homes in addition to hefty repair costs, which many simply cannot afford. These residents – in every sense of the word – are living in a hazard zone.

When I entered the Marine Corps, I swore to defend the Constitution, which includes protecting the people as they enjoy their unalienable Rights to Life, Liberty, and Pursuit Happiness as outlined in our Declaration of Independence. It is ironic that today, we observe Independence Day here in Dearborn Heights while visiting homes of senior citizens whose lives are in shambles – their property destroyed, their curbsides littered with trash and damaged property, and their homes in uninhabitable condition – with no tangible assistance from our U.S. government to date.

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As time is of the essence, I implore you to assist us with relief for the unsanitary conditions, damaged property, and to make these homes habitable. Our city needs immediate resources to assist with this recent flood devastation, in addition to assistance with our plan for a long-term solution.

We remain committed to continuing our efforts, restoring our city, and assisting the good people of Dearborn Heights. I would be honored to discuss our efforts and request for resources further. I appreciate your time and attention to this critical matter and look forward to your kind response.

Yours in service,



Mayor Bill Bazzi
City of Dearborn Heights, Michigan