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For Immediate Release  
September 8, 2017  
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## **Beverly Hills Encourages Support for Hurricane Relief Efforts**

*Beverly Hills, California* - The City of Beverly Hills stands united with communities recovering from Hurricane Harvey in Texas and other states and preparing for Hurricane Irma in Florida.

“It is our humanitarian obligation, in a catastrophe, to step up to the plate and lend our support to those in dire need of help,” said Mayor Lili Bosse.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has directed that financial assistance is the most effective way to support relief efforts. Providing in-kind, material donations is not recommended, as multiple levels of coordination will be required including transportation, delivery, storage and disbursement. The onsite resources needed to facilitate this process are currently not guaranteed in the affected region.

### **How to Help:**

It is encouraged that community members interested in providing support should visit the following website (as referred by FEMA) - the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) [www.nvoad.org](http://www.nvoad.org). The site provides a list of recognized and officially approved nonprofit organizations helping with relief efforts. The City’s website [www.beverlyhills.org/hurricanerelief](http://www.beverlyhills.org/hurricanerelief) also lists information on ways to donate.

It is important to be aware that scammers have been known to take advantage of disaster response situations.

- Be cautious of requests for donations by unfamiliar organizations or people
- Beware of unsolicited contacts and appeals on social media sites
- Some leading relief charities now accept donations via cell phone, but unsolicited text messages, should be viewed with suspicion and handled with caution

- Crowd-funding and other types of internet-giving can be tools of tremendous good, but as with any type of giving it can be abused, so proceed with caution when donating online

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