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Statement of Brandon Burleson, Democratic Candidate for Hays County Judge, Regarding Loss of \$800,000 for Hays County Emergency Rental Assistance

I'm appalled to learn that Hays County is losing \$800,000 in federal emergency rental assistance because of a lack of timely action by County leadership in disbursing millions of dollars in funds to those in need, particularly during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic.

The reported distribution of only \$166,000 out of an award of \$7 million dollars as of September 30 is an insult to our residents. It is a sign that under its current County Judge, who missed no opportunity to stuff his own pockets with questionable payments from our County, above and beyond his regular salary, has put himself above the needs of those he is sworn to serve.

What is particularly disturbing is the fact that this unwelcome news comes just as we approach the winter season, when this help is so desperately needed. Looking back at the hardships faced during this year's deadly winter storms, when more than 200 Texans died, many because of a lack of adequate heat and shelter, makes it clear that we cannot tolerate any failure in maintaining and strengthening this life-saving safety net for those in need.

It is not enough that Hays County has submitted a plan to correct its clear failure in managing this program. The fact is it never should have happened in the first place.

This is why I am a candidate in the Democratic Primary for Hays County Judge. I believe in a government that understands and serves the needs of its people. I believe that a laser-like focus on improving the well-being of our residents, businesses, and institutions, rather than self-serving opportunism, is necessary to make Hays County the best it can be. And I pledge to provide the leadership to make that happen.