



February 10, 2014

The Honorable Richard Constable, III
Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800

Marc-Philip Ferzan, Executive Director
Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding
Office of the Governor
125 West State Street, PO Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0001

Dear Commissioner Constable and Executive Director Ferzan,

Like so many other New Jersey organizations concerned about the state's effort to recover from Superstorm Sandy, the Housing & Community Development Network of New Jersey, which represents 250 members, was surprised to learn that the state recently ended its contract with Hammerman & Gainer, Inc. (HGI) for the RREM and Resettlement process and is now managing these programs internally. DCA recently informed the public that:

“As the State engaged personnel to assist in the recovery mission, it was further able to take the lead in managing these activities, including overseeing such front-facing staff as Housing Advisors. For support in this endeavor, the State has engaged a mixture of existing contractors including ICF, Atrium and Acro for contractor staff augmentation. DCA personnel manage each of the Housing Recovery Centers to ensure Housing Advisors are appropriately trained and applications are efficiently moving through the process.”

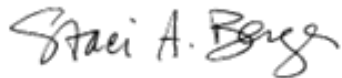
In light of this development, I respectfully and formally request that pursuant to the common law right to know, as well as the Open Public Records Act (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.), copies of all materials, documents and programs used by DCA, any other state agency and any contractors engaged in this process “to ensure Housing Advisors are appropriately trained.” To that end I have attached a copy of the state's Government Records Request Form which I am also submitting electronically on this date. I also request that all such documents be made available to the public at large. Our member organizations have been and continue to be on the front lines helping Sandy survivors struggle through this difficult process. So many of these survivors have turned to our members and our staff for assistance and we want to ensure that we can make the best possible, educated referral for services. As you are aware, Superstorm Sandy survivors have

repeatedly testified at legislative hearings and spoken publicly about the challenges of dealing with HGI contracted representatives.

It is unclear what changes, if any, have been made in the Housing Advisor program to ensure that Sandy survivors are given accurate and timely information, as well as treated with the respect they deserve. We hope that you will be able to allay these concerns by making publicly available the training documents, materials, programs and any other relevant information, so that all New Jerseyans can be informed and confident in the process as they work through the recovery.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist in any way, as we are all working toward helping New Jersey's residents and communities still struggling to rebuild from Superstorm Sandy.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Staci A. Berger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Staci A. Berger
President & CEO