



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

September 12, 2022

Kem R. Fleming, Director
U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of Disaster Assistance
Field Operations Center East
101 Marietta Street NW, Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30303-2725

Dear Mr. Fleming,

Under provisions of Title 13 CFR Part 123.3, I respectfully request that the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) implement a Small Business Administrative declaration to provide assistance in the form of SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Hinds County following the Jackson Water Crisis beginning August 30, 2022.

The City of Jackson provides water to several communities within Hinds County, including all of the City of Jackson. For over a month, the City of Jackson was under a boil water notice because of turbidity issues at the O. B. Curtis Water Plant ("Water Plant"). Coupled with the Pearl River flooding in late August 2022, a catastrophic failure at the Water Plant resulted in a total or near total loss of water pressure throughout the City of Jackson and the surrounding areas. This water loss created disastrous conditions and extreme peril to the health and safety of citizens and businesses throughout Hinds County. Restaurants, bars, lounges, and coffee shops were severely hampered because of their inability to safely serve, cook, clean, and sanitize. As a substitute for running water, these businesses were forced to purchase more expensive bottled water, canned drinks, paper goods, and bagged ice for their customers. These businesses also experienced increased utilization of utility services (electricity/gas) to boil water for operations. Daycare centers were forced to limit or eliminate services because they could not easily keep their facilities clean. Businesses dependent on running water for cooling were also forced to close their doors or limit their services. Hotels saw a severe drop in reservations due to the unavailability of water for patrons. Additionally, businesses unable to provide bathroom services resorted to renting portable toilets for their few patrons and staff. Overall, with little to no running water throughout the City of Jackson, businesses were unable to serve, clean, cool or sanitize, forcing them to either suffer losses or temporarily shut down.

A survey of these affected businesses was conducted to determine the economic impact of their losses for the disaster period compared to the same period in the preceding year. Based upon these surveys, I certify that at least five small businesses in the disaster area have suffered substantial economic

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injury as a result of the disaster and require financial assistance not otherwise available on reasonable terms.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Clayton C. French, Jr., Deputy Director, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency at 601-933-6782 or cfrench@mema.ms.gov.

Sincerely,



Tate Reeves
Governor