

Hot Springs Village Federal Legislative Issues

2010-2012



Hot Springs Village
Property Owners' Association
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Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE AT A GLANCE

Hot Spring Village, established in 1970, is America's largest gated community. The Village covers 40.6 square miles and is comprised of 26,000 acres. It is located in Garland and Saline Counties 12 miles north of Hot Springs, Arkansas. There are 34,000 property owners. Currently there is a population of approximately 14,000 individuals, with over 8,000 private residences. Home prices range from \$80,000 to more than \$1 million. Volunteering is a major activity. There are over 200 social clubs and civic organizations.

The Property Owners Association, a private, tax-exempt home owners association, is the governing body of Hot Springs Village, and is responsible for all Village amenities including fire and police protection, a public works department that maintains roads, water, sewer and sanitation services for Hot Springs Village, as well as the recreation and golf amenities available within Hot Springs Village.

Hot Springs Village makes substantial contributions to the local economy, school districts, and County, State and Federal Governments. Currently there are **8,000** dwellings, housing **14,000** full-time residents in HSV. Collectively, these property owners and/or residents contribute \$40M in federal revenue via income taxes, **\$11M** in state revenue via income tax, and **\$12.2M** (including **\$9M** specifically for schools) in county revenue for roads, libraries, schools, and governmental operations. Its makeup and services are not unlike many incorporated areas/municipalities within the state of Arkansas and throughout the country.

The Village generates employment opportunities and therefore millions of dollars in income, spending and taxes. Additional household spending generates more jobs and additional millions of dollars to the economic region.



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HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE KEY CONTACTS

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FEDERAL PROGRAM

1. FEMA FUNDS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.13, dated July 18, 2007, appears to make Hot Springs Village eligible for debris removal under the Public Assistance Program of FEMA. Hot Springs Village must now pre-arrange entry rights for local government officials to remove debris/perform work in the event of a declared disaster if such work is determined to be in the “public interest”.

2. PROVIDE FUNDING FOR HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN GARLAND COUNTY

The community of Hot Springs Village recommends the U.S. Congress continue to support directed funding to complete the construction of Martin Luther King Expressway from US 70 east of Hot Springs to SH 5 and SH 7 in Fountain Lake.



Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association

1. FEMA FUNDS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

RECOMMENDATION:

The Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.13, dated July 18, 2007, appears to make Hot Springs Village eligible for debris removal under the Public Assistance Program of FEMA. Hot Springs Village must now pre-arrange entry rights for local government officials to remove debris/perform work in the event of a declared disaster if such work is determined to be in the “public interest”.

BACKGROUND:

Hot Springs Village is a private non-profit entity covering 40.6 square miles and is comprised of 26,000 acres with 34,000 residential property owners. Currently there are **8,000** dwellings, housing **14,000** full-time residents. Collectively, these property owners and/or residents contribute \$40M in federal revenue via income taxes, **\$11M** in state revenue via income tax, and **\$12.2M** (including **\$9M** specifically for schools) in county revenue for roads, libraries, schools, and governmental operations. Its makeup and services are not unlike many incorporated areas/municipalities within the state of Arkansas and throughout the country.

Section 42USC5122(9) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act defines a private non-profit facility as follows:

“Private non-profit facility means private non-profit educational, utility, emergency, medical, rehabilitational, and temporary or permanent custodial care facilities (including those for the aged and disabled), other private non-profit facilities which provide essential services of a governmental nature to the general public, and facilities on Indian reservations as defined by the President.”

Because Hot Springs Village is a property owner association rather than a recognized “formal seat of government”, it was deemed ineligible to qualify for FEMA disaster relief funds in 2000/2001 based on the phrase “**to the general public**” despite suffering \$300,000 in major damage and cleanup. Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association, along with similar non-profit, private facilities across the country, provide essential services of a governmental nature to its residents who pay federal and state taxes, but whose associations receive little direct benefits for those taxes.

In 2005, Congressman Alcee Hastings, Florida, introduced H.R. 1137 in an effort to assist private communities in Florida who received damage from hurricanes. Subsequently, Congressman Mike Ross, Arkansas, signed on as a co-sponsor in support of private communities who could receive damage from natural disasters in the future. While this bill remains in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, HSV supports the ideology of it and would welcome passage as an alternative to amendment of the Stafford Act.

We contend the property owners of Hot Springs Village contribute significantly toward the funding of the federal government and its many agencies and should, therefore, be eligible to receive financial assistance in times of disaster.

The Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.13, dated July 18, 2007, appears to make Hot Springs Village eligible for debris removal under the Public Assistance Program of FEMA. Hot Springs Village must now pre-arrange entry rights for local government officials to remove debris/perform work in the event of a declared disaster if such work is determined to be in the “public interest”.



Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association

2. CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN GARLAND COUNTY

RECOMMENDATION:

The community of Hot Springs Village recommends the U.S. Congress continue to support by directed funding the completion of construction of Martin Luther King Expressway from US 70 east of Hot Springs to SH 5 and SH 7 in Fountain Lake.

BACKGROUND:

Hot Springs Village covers 40.6 square miles and is comprised of 26,000 acres with 34,000 residential property owners. Currently there are 8,000 dwellings, housing 14,000 full-time residents but future growth projections will multiply those numbers exponentially. HSV residents utilize SH 7 to access commercial businesses along these routes, as well as those in the neighboring city of Hot Springs. Additionally, Hot Springs is the county seat for Garland County and is home to centers of higher education as well as emergency medical services. MLK Expressway, SH 7, and the East-West arterial are supported by the Hot Springs MPO.

- **MARTIN LUTHER KING EXPRESSWAY:** Since 1987, \$71.7M has been spent to complete a Hot Springs by-pass from SH70 East to SH270 and SH70 West. However, cost projections are \$80M for the remaining 5.5 miles needed to complete this project, which will connect SH5 and SH7 from the north to the by-pass. Earlier concerns by interested federal agencies have been alleviated, thus removing previous administrative road blocks to the project. Completing MLK Expressway would provide improved access between Hot Springs Village and Hot Springs (via the by-pass connection) for all residents and is essential to emergency services response times in saving lives requiring transport to the city. This project should move forward.