

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**October 30, 2018**

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## **Longtime Disaster Recovery Advocate Named Executive Director of HOME Coalition**

*Houston Recovery Coalition Names Chrishelle Palay as New Executive Director*



**HOUSTON** -- Houston Organizing Movement for Equity (HOME) is proud to announce Chrishelle Palay as the next Executive Director of the coalition.

“We are confident Chrishelle will draw upon her extensive policy experience working with local community organizing groups around disaster recovery,” **said the HOME coalition members in a joint statement.** “Houston can be built equitably and to do so, we must ensure that the voices of those who have been most affected by hurricane damage and flooding for decades have a voice now.”

Chrishelle Palay is a Houston native, who has spent much her career advocating for fair housing policies and the rights of low income Houston residents to have access to safe, decent affordable housing in the communities of their choice. She worked closely with policy advocates, grassroots organizers, and community leaders in 2008’s Hurricane Ike Recovery efforts. This work led to community members brokering a deal with Mayor Annise Parker to invest \$150 million into historically underserved Houston neighborhoods.

Since Hurricane Ike disaster recovery efforts, Palay has deepened her work with community leaders to ensure low income communities are included in all government funding and programs, including disaster recovery resources for low income communities demand their fair share. This work led to an intensive community led planning process in Sunnyside to help area residents document the community’s history while planning a path forward for its future.

Most recently, Palay served as the co-director for Texas Housers for eight years providing local and state housing policy research, advocacy, and strategy to local community organizing groups. Prior to her role with Texas Housers, Palay had a successful career in architecture, specializing in high rise multifamily design and development.

Palay began as executive director of HOME on October 15th.

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Houston Organizing Movement for Equity (HOME) is a coalition of community, policy and service-based organizations committed to an equitable recovery from Hurricane Harvey for all Houstonians. For updates, follow us on Twitter [@HOME\\_Coalition](https://twitter.com/HOME_Coalition).