



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

September 19, 2008

Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas
Capitol Building
1100 Congress
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Perry,

On behalf of the citizens of Georgia, please know that the State of Texas is in our prayers during these trying times. As you know, Georgia residents and state employees have volunteered in the disaster relief efforts going on in Texas, and I write you today about an incident that occurred with two Georgia volunteers.

Pursuant to our agreements with EMAC, employees of the Georgia Forestry Commission volunteered to assist in Houston. It has come to my attention that two of our female employees working at the Regional Staging Area at Reliant Stadium in Houston, were verbally and profanely abused by Houston Mayor Bill White. Apparently, Mayor White had to be escorted from the scene by the Incident Commander, and his conduct spurred apologies from Harris County Judge, Ed Emmet, and United States Homeland Security Secretary, Michael Chertoff.

As of this morning, it is my understanding that Mayor White has not apologized for his conduct. I would not tolerate the profane berating of Texas or Georgia volunteers here in our state and I trust that you do not either. Georgians are always ready to serve when fellow Americans are in need; it is my hope that our volunteers will be received in a manner befitting of Texas.

Again, we wish all of Texas our very best and will continue to keep you in our prayers during this difficult time. Thank you for understanding my disappointment, and I would appreciate you looking into the situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue