NEXT CHAPTER SIGNATURE GROUP / HOUSTON, TEXAS

First-Time Buyer Checklist

Your first home purchase becomes easier when you know what to prepare, what to ask and what happens next. Check off each step as you move toward the keys.

01 Get financially ready

☐ Estimate an affordable monthly payment based on your budget and other obligations.

☐ Review your credit reports and correct verified errors through the proper process.

☐ Plan for down payment, closing costs, inspections, appraisal, moving and a cash cushion.

☐ Gather recent pay statements, W-2s or tax returns, bank statements and identification as your lender requests.

☐ Ask lenders which conventional, FHA, VA, USDA or assistance programs you may qualify for.

02 Build your homebuying team

☐ Talk with a Realtor about your timeline, desired neighborhoods and home priorities.

☐ Obtain lender preapproval and ask about the interest rate, APR, loan type and estimated total payment.

☐ Review the buyer representation agreement and understand compensation and services before signing.

☐ Compare lender Loan Estimates, not just headline rates.

03 Shop and make an offer

☐ Choose three must-haves and three nice-to-haves.

☐ Research area considerations, including commuting, flooding, insurance, HOA rules and property taxes.

☐ Discuss offer price, financing, deadlines, earnest money, option or inspection periods and contingencies.

☐ Read the contract and disclosures carefully; ask questions before agreeing.

04 Under contract

☐ Deliver any required deposits on time and schedule inspections promptly.

☐ Review inspection findings and negotiate only within the rights and deadlines of your contract.

☐ Respond to lender underwriting requests and prepare for appraisal and insurance.

☐ Avoid major credit changes, new debt or unexplained large deposits without discussing them with your lender.

05 Closing week

☐ Review your Closing Disclosure at least three business days before a covered mortgage closing.

☐ Confirm the amount and secure instructions for your closing funds directly with a trusted title-company contact.

☐ Complete your final walkthrough and check agreed repairs.

☐ Bring required identification, ask questions and keep copies of your signed documents.

Your personal plan

My target monthly payment: _____

My preferred areas: _____

My ideal move-in date: _____

YOUR NEXT CHAPTER STARTS HERE

Questions about your next move? Schedule a consultation with Ashley Bayonne.

calendly.com/hopshtx/30min | (346) 904-4375

Educational information only; not a promise of loan approval or an offer of financing. Programs and eligibility change. Never rely on an emailed change to wiring instructions without independent verification.