Dear residents,

Next week, my City Council colleagues and I will vote on the City's \$6.2 billion proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year, which for the first time includes an Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust contribution. The OPEB Contribution will total \$10 million with a general fund contribution of \$8 million and the remaining funds are a combination of Enterprise and Special Funds. This is a huge step towards increasing financial security for the City of Houston and I could not be prouder to have been the catalyst behind this new strategy for the City. The proposed budget includes pay raises for all City of Houston employee groups: 3% pay raise for municipal workers, 3% pay raise for police, and a 6% pay raise for firefighters. The 6% pay raise for firefighters included in this budget represents the 3rd year of an 18% cumulative pay raise for Houston firefighters valued at \$115 million.

This budget also includes plans to invest in repairing and maintaining our roads, bridges, and drainage systems helping to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety, and increase resiliency for Houstonians. There is a \$47 million increase in transfers to the Dedicated Drainage Street and Renewal Fund (DDSRF), or Rebuild Houston, to support streets and drainage projects in the Capital Improvement Plan, coupled with a decrease in debt service of \$7 million, for a net increase of \$40 million for pay-as-you-go and debt. The City of Houston is investing in parks and recreational facilities, including new parks, playgrounds, and sports facilities. This investment will provide more opportunities for outdoor activities and promote a sense of community and togetherness. Information related to the City's proposed budget can be found online here.

As we, just kicked off the start of Hurricane Season residents should take note the budget also includes increased funding for emergency management services, improved communication systems, and enhanced infrastructure to mitigate the impact of flooding. The City of Houston Disaster Preparedness Guide is updated every year and helps Houstonians plan for emergencies. The guide is free and can be downloaded in six languages from the City's Office of Emergency Management's website here. Additionally, I encourage all residents to sign up for emergency alerts through <u>Alert Houston</u>. Alert Houston delivers critical information to Houston residents regarding current conditions, expected impacts, and protective actions to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

Wishing everyone a safe summer and a reminder the District E Office will be closed on Monday, June 19 in Observance of Juneteenth.

Sincerely, Dave Martin

Lake Houston Spillway Gates to Receive Crucial State Funding

Last week the State agreed to two requests from our community which were to include funding for the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project, sediment capture projects, and both structural and nonstructural improvements for the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston in order to convey future floodwaters. **Mayor Pro Tem credits the success of this funding to the hundreds of community members who answered the call to action and called State leaders over the last two weeks.**

The Lake Houston area is blessed with many engaged residents and together the "fix" for the Lake Houston Gates is finally on the horizon. This new state funding signals to the federal government the City of Houston is ready to move forward. It is important to note the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project has a benefit-to-cost ratio of 3.5, which is the highest-rated project in the state of Texas.

The specific requests included in a rider to the <u>88th Legislature's Appropriations Bill</u> (page 243/4) are in Sec. 17.38. Appropriation: Texas Water Development Board Water Grants and Lake Houston Accumulated Siltation.

These state funds in the amount of \$50 million dollars will be utilized in the final design and construction of eleven new flood control gates to be added on the east embankment of the Lake Houston Spillway Dam. The City of Houston has spent \$4.375 million on the preliminary design for the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project securing \$48 million dollars from the federal government along with \$30 million dollars in local funds. U.S. Congressman Dan Crenshaw has also been instrumental in securing an \$8 million dollar earmark and \$38 million dollars in additional money for dredging in the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston.

Over the last several months, Mayor Pro Tem has visited Austin multiple times diligently meeting with representatives, legislative committee staff members, collecting over twenty letters of support from elected officials, and kicking off a grassroots campaign to accomplish the goal to fund much needed post-Harvey improvements in the San Jacinto River Watershed. The District E office plans to host a Fall community meeting in Kingwood to present the design concept and details related to the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project, future dredging and sediment capture, as well as, progress on the expansion of Northpark Drive.

Thank you to U.S. Congressman Dan Crenshaw, U.S. Congressman Dan Crenshaw's District Director Kaaren Cambio, Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, State Senator Brandon Creighton, State Senator/Chairwoman Joan Huffman, Speaker Dade Phelan, State Representative Charles Cunningham, State Representative/House Appropriations Chair Greg Bonnen, State Representative Armando Walle, Montgomery County Judge Mark Keough, Montgomery County Commissioner Matt Gray, Harris County Commissioner Tom Ramsey, City of Humble Mayor Norman Funderburk, Humble City Manager Jason Stuebe, City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, City of Houston Chief Recovery Officer Stephen Costello, City of Houston Government Relations Team led by Bill Kelly and consultants Dan Huberty, Ben Melson. Additional thanks to our communities of support including Humble Independent School District, San Jacinto River Authority, Kingwood Super Neighborhood, Lake Houston Redevelopment Authority, Kingwood Service Association, Greater East Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Houston Partnership, Lake Conroe Association, Partnership Lake Houston, North Houston Association, and Kingwood resident Bob Rehak. None of this would have been possible without these amazing representatives and partners.



DELAYED: Traffic Safety Improvements for

Kingwood Drive Near H-E-B

The District E office regrets to inform the Kingwood community the anticipated traffic safety improvements to the Kingwood Drive median between West Lake Houston and Kings Crossing have been delayed by two weeks. The contractor assigned to the project was pulled away for emergency repairs, which is what has caused the delay. The District E office understands the importance of this project and apologizes for any inconvenience this delay has created.

The contractor is working to ensure the project will commence within two weeks, and our team will continue to monitor the progress closely to ensure that the project is completed as soon as possible. Mayor Pro Tem Martin remains committed to improving the safety of our community and appreciates your patience and understanding during this time.



HCFCD Flood Insurance

Harris County Flood Control District recommends that all Harris County residents become informed about their flood risk and have flood insurance no matter where they reside in Harris County. The devastating effects of flooding do not end when the stormwater recedes after a flood event. Flood insurance accelerates the rebuilding and replacement of personal property and fosters community resiliency as a whole. Flood insurance does take 30 days to become active, so keep that in mind as hurricane season nears.

Click <u>here</u> to learn more about why you should get flood insurance and learn about how to get it. Note that you cannot buy flood insurance directly from the <u>National</u> <u>Flood Insurance Program</u> (NFIP). If you're interested in purchasing flood insurance, your homeowners, renters, or business insurance agent may be able to help you. You can also contact the NFIP Help Center at 800-427-4661.



Kingwood Varsity Girls Day

Mayor Sylvester Turner and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin provided proclamations from the City of Houston and District E on Wednesday, May 24 to recognize the Kingwood Girls Varsity Golf Team for their outstanding season.

Bella Flores, Morgan Ankenbrandt, Kate Hartnett, Khloe Jones, and Mariana Hernandez, constitute the excellent Kingwood Varsity Girls Golf team, who finished second at the 6A State Championship. It is worth noting, Coach Susan Willis was named 2023 HAGCA Girls Coach of the Year.

Overall, the team won back-to-back Region 3 championships and set a Region 3 scoring record of 595 points at Eagle Pointe. In recognition of their amazing accomplishments, May 24th is designated as Kingwood Girls Varsity Golf Team Day. **Congratulations ladies, the City of Houston, especially District E are super proud!**



Lake Houston Dredging Update



During the May 10 Houston City Council meeting, Council unanimously approved an additional \$29,000,000 in state grant funds for the continued dredging around the canals and channels of Lake Houston. The additional funding will allow dredging activities to start on the east side of Lake Houston in the various canals/channels. The funding will also go towards the implementation of a <u>pilot program</u> <u>testing the efficacy of sand traps upstream of Lake</u> <u>Houston</u>. Building sand traps is a proactive approach to capturing much of the silt and sediment coming down the various tributaries feeding into Lake Houston well before it ever reaches.

Tremendous progress has been made since Hurricane Harvey through the completion of FEMA,

Texas Water Development Board, Harris County, and City of Houston projects. Since 2018, the total combined efforts of these entities have resulted in approximately 4,004,008 cubic yards of silt and sediment dredged from Lake Houston and its tributaries at a total cost of \$222 million that is spread across federal, state, and local funding sources.

Additional dredging in the area of the West Fork Mouth Bar funded by FEMA is still in the works. The additional funding would support the removal of approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards from the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. The project is currently going through the procurement process and is expected to begin later this year.

I would like to offer a very special "Thank You" to Congressman Dan Crenshaw, former State Representative Dan Huberty and Senator Brandon Creighton for their commitment to seeing this project through and dedication to the long-term maintenance activities on Lake Houston. Harris County Commissioner Precinct 3, Tom Ramsey, and Harris County Flood Control District have been terrific partners. I also want to thank my colleagues on City Council, Mayor Sylvester Turner for his unwavering support for Lake Houston, and Chief Recovery Officer Stephen Costello for his continued diligence on flood mitigation efforts.

TxDOT Loop 494 Expansion Project Update

Due to delays with the railroad, gas lines, impacts to waterlines, and a joint detention pond, TxDOT has experienced numerous delays with the Loop 494 Expansion Project. The project is currently estimated to be completed in Summer 2023.

TxDOT's contractor spent the first few months of 2023 finishing the paving of the northbound main lanes on the southern end of the project and placing driveways. The last major piece to this project is the Kingwood Drive & Loop 494 intersection improvements. TxDOT's contractor is currently working on a plan to complete the intersection improvements with as little impact as



possible on residents. Again, TxDOT estimates completing the project early this summer. The Loop 494 Expansion Project is a multijurisdictional project involving Montgomery County and the Texas Department of Transportation.

The scope of work includes:

- Widening a 1.7-mile facility to a 4-lane divided highway
- Continuous left-turn lane from Kingwood Drive to Crescent Springs Drive
- Raised median from Crescent Springs Drive to Sorters-McClellan Road
- Reconstruction of the Kingwood Intersection and elevate intersection to remove dip at RR
- Sidewalk installation along the west side of Loop 494 will allow pedestrians to cross Kingwood Drive at the signal

More information on the project can be found by reading the <u>Public Meeting Summary</u> that occurred on March 29, 2017, and the <u>Public Hearing Summary</u> that occurred on November 9, 2010. For more information, contact Emily Black at 713-802-5000. Follow the TxDOT Houston District on Twitter @<u>TxDOTHouston</u>.

Lake Houston Safety Plan #KnowYourZone



Do you know your zones? The <u>Lake Houston</u> <u>Safety Plan</u> provides Lake Houston residents and visiting recreational users with information preparing them to better identify their location on the lake and how to best report a lake incident to 9-1-1 dispatchers.

The "Know Your Zone" map was created by District E in collaboration with the Houston Fire Department, Houston Police Department, Houston Planning Department, Houston Office Emergency Management, Houston of Emergency Center, and the Houston Public Works Department. To date, signs have been installed at Deussen Park, East End Park, River Grove Park, Kings Harbor, W Lake Houston Parkway Bridge, and on the FM 1960 Bridge. Houston Public Works has been hampered by the weather but is still working to install signs that have been requested by community groups and private community boat dock owners.

To learn more about the Lake Houston Safety Plan visit the Know Your Zone website, here. There you can print your own maps, share with neighbors, post on social media, and #knowyourzone. To request a presentation for your group (HOA, Civic Club etc.) or receive resources directly, please email District Office the Е at districte@houstontx.gov.

Report a Streetlight Outage



CenterPoint Energy maintains streetlights throughout District E and the City of Houston. If you notice a streetlight out in your area please click on the link below to report a streetlight outage.

You will be asked to provide:

• a pole number (or nearby address) for the non-functioning lights

you want to report

- contact information (in case more information is needed to locate a streetlight)
- an e-mail address (if you want feedback regarding your repair request)

• the number of streetlights you would like to report

The system will guide you through the remaining steps. <u>To report a streetlight outage using the interactive</u> <u>map, click here.</u>

Report general power outages by calling 713-207-2222 or toll-free 800-332-7143.

S.A.M.E Resiliency Workshop Event

District E staff attended the <u>Society of</u> <u>American Military Engineers</u> Resiliency Workshop on May 24. This workshop included special guest speakers from Harris County Flood Control District, General Land Office, METRO, Harris County Engineers, and the City of Houston. The purpose of this event was to discuss how we can all come together and build and sustain a resilient community with the region's public agencies.

The event concluded with a round table discussion where everyone got the chance to have an open conversation and explain the various efforts each public agency is doing to improve the resiliency of our community such as upcoming projects, plans to receive funding for certain programs and much



more. To learn more about the City of Houston's resiliency plan, click here.

Utilizing 3-1-1 to Report Issues



Residents may act as extra eyes and ears on the streets, and soon you'll be able to report a pothole, a malfunctioning traffic light, or a drainage problem while you're out and about. Houston 311 is in the process of launching a new smartphone app that makes reporting issues like these easier than ever. The app will use GPS to identify your location and also allow you to snap a photo to add to your service request. The new app will allow for reports are automatically sent to the City's 311 system and routed to city departments for resolutions.

You can still alert the City of Houston of issues by dialing 3-1-1 or 713-837-0311 of potential problems in your community. Houstonians

can also access this helpful service via an e-mail to <u>311@HoustonTX.gov</u>. A self Service Request (SR) form is available online at <u>www.houston311.org</u>. Once you've reported a problem please follow up with the District E office by emailing your case number and information on the issue to the District E office at <u>districte@houstontx.gov</u> so that we can help make sure the problem is addressed in a timely manner.







Grants Workshop

Join Council Member Letitia Plummer, Houston Arts Alliance and the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, to learn about City of Houston Grants available for all artists and creators.



♥ JULIA IDESON BUILDING 550 MCKINNEY ST. HOUSTON, TX 77002



Register via QR Code or link. Call for more information.

Solution bit.ly/COHGrantsWorkshop

& 832-393-3012







WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM



1,500 WOMEN VETERANS SERVED SINCE 2014

WHY JOIN?

Connect with a community of other women veterans because no matter when you separated from the military, you don't have to do it alone.

PROGRAM FEATURES

Bi-monthly workshop topics:

- Making a Positive Impact
- Coping with Anxiety
- Financial Literacy
- Veterans Affairs Q&A
 Panel



QUESTIONS?

LaGaydra Murphy, USAF, Ret. Veteran Outreach Manager veterans@dfshouston.org 713.337.0877 66 The DFS Houston Women Veterans program offers so many opportunities to build myself up, de-stress, connect with other veterans, and gain the necessary tools to move forward in my life. - Tiffany, US Army Veteran

The mission of the DFS Houston Women Veterans Program is to empower women veterans through a network of support that continues to connect them to community resources, build professional relationships and cultivate personal growth in a safe, uplifiting environment.

District E Electronic Recycling Events



District E Upcoming Monthly Events

Email the District E office (<u>districte@houstontx.gov</u>) if you would like us to include your upcoming event in future newsletters!

- June 03 Kingwood Electronic Recycling
- June 08 TIRZ 10 Monthly Board Meeting
- June 08 HPD Northeast Division Positive Interaction Program Meeting
- June 10 Clear Lake/Ellington Electronic Recycling
- June 12 Special Called Budget & Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting
- June 19 Juneteenth City Offices Closed
- June 20 HPD Clear Lake Division Positive Interaction Program
- June 20 HPD Kingwood Division Positive Interaction Program
- June 20 Parternship Lake Houston State of the State Luncheon
- June 22 Partnership Lake Houston: Summer Creek BizCom

See a pothole, report it by calling (713) 837-0311

Get the latest on COVID-19 including locations of active testing sites can be found <u>here</u>. Tune to HTV Houston to watch live and recorded City Council and Committee Meetings.





