Fund Descriptions

General Fund (1000)

General Revenues (i.e. property taxes, sales taxes, franchise fees, Municipal Courts fines, etc.) are budgeted and received in the General Fund for the support of most basic city services. Operations and services for public safety, financial services, libraries, solid waste management, health, most parks and recreation services, street traffic control, esplanade mowing and citywide administration are included in the General Fund.

Enterprise Funds

Aviation Operating Fund (8001)

The Aviation Operating Fund is an enterprise fund which accounts for operation of the City's airport system. The airport system is comprised of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston, William P. Hobby Airport, and Ellington Field. Activities of the department include: operations, maintenance, planning and construction, public service and administration. The Department coordinates its activities with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), other federal and state agencies, the airlines, and tenants of the airport facilities.

Convention and Entertainment Facilities Operating Fund (8601)

The Convention and Entertainment Facilities operating fund is an enterprise fund that accounts for the operation of the City's six major entertainment centers and City-owned parking garages: Jesse H. Jones Hall, Bayou Place, Houston Center for The Arts, Gus S. Wortham Center, George R. Brown Convention Center, Tranquility Park garage and Civic Center garage.

Combined Utility System Fund (8300, 8301, 8305)

The Combined Utility System is composed of three separate funds: the Water and Sewer System Operating Fund: the Combined Utility System Operating Fund and the Combined Utility System General Purpose Fund. The fund provides for the operation of the City's treated and untreated water, as well as, receives and process wastewater generated in a service area that includes the City, certain municipalities and unincorporated communities in the Houston metropolitan area. Some of the City's largest customers are other cities and water authorities which supply water to their own customers. This fund is administered by the Public Works & Engineering Department.

Risk Management Funds

Health Benefits Fund (9000)

The Health Benefits Fund, an Internal Service Fund administered by the Human Resources Department, was established in 1984 to centralize the financial transactions for the City's benefit plans. Health Benefits Effective May 1, 2011, the City elected to be substantially self-insured and awarded CIGNA a three year contract with two (2) one-year renewal options for 4 new health plans. The new health benefits model is composed of four (4) plans, all of which have heavy emphasis on a wellness component, and includes; 1) a limited network HMO-type plan, 2) an open access PPO-type plan with no out-of-network coverage, 3) a consumer driven high deductible Health Plan (CDHP), partnered with a health reimbursement account, and 4) a specific plan for retirees, mostly those under age 65, who live outside the limited network service area but who live in Texas. Effective 08/01/11, all 65+ Medicare eligible retirees must enroll in the 6 MA plans or opt out. These plans are supported by contributions from the city and participants. The Fund also includes two dental plans, a dental/health maintenance organization (DHMO) and a dental indemnity plan. Both plans are supported exclusively by participants.

Long Term Disability Fund (9001)

The Long Term Disability (LTD) Plan is a self-insured program accounted for as an internal service fund. Established in 1985 and revised in 1996 as part of the Income Protection Plan (IPP) (renamed the Compensable Sick Leave Plan (CSL) in October 1996), the plan provides paid long-term sick leave for City employees.

Property and Casualty Fund (1004)

The Property and Casualty Fund was established to monitor the financial requirements of the Property and Risk Management Programs. This activity is primarily self-funded. The revenue is generated from assessed premiums to the other funds. These premiums are based upon projected expenditures. All risk to the City's assets (except Workers Compensation, Life, Health Benefits, and Long Term Disability) fall within the scope of this fund.

Workers' Compensation Fund (1011)

The Workers' Compensation Fund is a revolving fund administered by the Human Resources Department. The Fund was established to centralize the financial transactions in the areas of Accident Prevention, Loss Control and Workers' Compensation.

Special Revenue Funds

Asset Forfeiture Fund (2202, 2203, 2204)
This fund is administered by the Houston Police Department (HPD). The City receives forfeited funds resulting from HPD's role in drug-related seizures. This fund provides resources beyond HPD's General Fund budget for crime enforcement. Specifically, this fund is used to address the drug problem in a manner consistent with the department's Comprehensive Narcotics Plan.

Auto Dealers Fund (2200)
This fund is budgeted to pay the license fees paid by tow truck drivers and various automotive sales, repair, storage and salvage dealers to finance a portion of the Police Department's enforcement efforts regarding privately owned storage lots. This fund is also administered by the Police Department.

BARC Special Revenue Fund (2427)
BARC (Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care) is authorized to receive funds from any source for the purpose of supporting the maintenance and operation of the City's animal shelter facilities and programs. This fund is administered by the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department.

Building Inspection Fund (2301)
This fund includes all construction and building permit revenues and expenditures for inspections and permitting activities. Outdoor sign license fees are received in this fund for enforcement of the City's sign ordinance. This fund is administered by the Public Works and Engineering (PWE) Department.

Building (Court) Security Fund (2206)
This Fund was established in FY1997 and is administered by the Municipal Courts Department. This fund includes all security related contractual expenditures and additional security enhancements for the courts. Revenue is generated by the collection of a court fee for each paid conviction as allowed by State law. The mission of the Municipal Court Building Security Fund is to protect the health and welfare of civilians and employees by ensuring that adequate equipment, procedures, and personnel are present at all court facilities.

Cable TV Fund (2401, 2428)
This fund, under certain cable television franchise agreements with the City, receives contributions on a subscriber basis. This fund is used for public access cable television programming and related costs in the Cable Television Special Fund. The Mayor's Office is responsible for administering this fund.

Child Safety Fund (2209)
This fund is used to account for monies received for public, parochial and private school crossing guard programs. Revenues to the fund comes from an assessment of Municipal Court fee's on non-criminal municipal violations and a portion of each vehicle registration authorized by Harris County. The Police Department administers this fund.

Contractors Responsibility (2424)
The Contractors Responsibility Fund was created for the Pay or Play Program (POP), which is administered by the Office of Business Opportunity. The Pay or Play program is designated to foster the health care options for the citizens of Houston and Harris County area, create a level playing field for contractors bidding on City of Houston projects and defray the cost of the local uninsured workforce.

Dedicated Drainage & Street Renewal Fund (2310)
Ordinance 2010-879 requires funding in the amount equivalent to proceeds from $0.118 of the City's ad valorem tax levy minus an amount equal to debt service for drainage and streets to the Dedicated Drainage & Street Renewal Fund. Total outstanding debt payable from ad valorem taxes (as of December 31, 2012) is $3.47 billion. The portion of the debt associated with drainage and street improvements is estimated at $1.69 billion. The Dedicated Drainage and Street Renewal Fund is not technically an enterprise fund, but is grouped with the Combined Utility System for clarity.

Digital Automated Red Light Enforcement Program Fund (2212)
This fund tracks the financial and accounting balances from all penalties and fees collected and all costs associated with the operation and enforcement of the photographic traffic monitoring system. While no new tickets will be issued, this fund remains open while the City collects outstanding penalties and fees and pays the fund's expenses. This fund is administered by the Finance Department.

Digital Houston Fund (2422)
This fund is used by the City of Houston to build a citywide wireless broadband Wi-Fi mesh network that will provide affordable high-speed internet access for residents and visitors to Houston; thus creating a digital future for Houstonians through a digital literacy effort in support of achieving Houston's educational workforce and educational goals. This fund is administered by the Library Department.

Essential Public Health Services (2010)
The Essential Public Health Services Fund was created for the purpose of offsetting costs associated with the administration of Medicaid Transformation Waiver projects and to perform other essential public health services. This fund will capture the costs and reimbursement of the expenses for the projects. The expected reimbursements are for costs that are incurred for the expansion of health and human services.

Forensic Transition Special Fund (2213)
The Forensic Transition Special Fund was created for the transition of forensic operations from the Houston Police Department to the independent Houston Forensics Science Local Government Corporation (LGC). The funds budget covers City of Houston employees that provide services to the Houston Forensic Science LGC.

Health Special Revenue Fund (2002)
Health Special Revenue Fund contains several revenue generating activities that are supported by ordinances, including the following: Consumer Foods Technology Fee, Ambulance Permit Fee, Vital Statics, Geriatric Dental Program, and donated fund for community activities or special events coordinated by Children and Family Services Division and Community Health Services Division.

Historic Preservation Fund (2306)
This fund is administered by the Planning and Development Department and the Houston Public Library. This fund was established in FY2010 to utilize funds set aside from the sale of historic fire stations by the City in FY2009. This fund is used to promote historic preservation programs. It utilizes City funds as seed money to encourage private investment, attract grant funds, and support educational programs that will further preservation efforts in Houston. This fund also provides future funding for the maintenance needs of the historic Julia Ideson Building.

Houston Emergency Center Fund (2205)
This fund consolidates the City's four separate emergency services into one state of the art facility. This fund is administered by the Houston Emergency Center.

Houston TranStar Center Fund (2402)
Houston TranStar Center, formerly known as the Greater Houston Transportation & Emergency Management Center, was built through a cooperative effort among the City of Houston, Harris County, Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The center houses personnel responsible for and/or involved with transportation and emergency management planning and operations in the Houston/Harris County area. Funding for the center is received from each member agency and is prorated based on occupancy and use of center facilities.

Juvenile Case Manager Fund (2211)
This Fund was established in FY2009 and is administered by the Municipal Courts Department. This fund includes expenditures for the salary, benefits, and operational costs related to the Juvenile Case Manager staff. Revenue is generated by the collection of a court fee for each paid conviction as allowed by State law. The mission of the Juvenile Case Manager Fee Fund is to partner with school districts within the City of Houston in an effort to increase school attendance and reduce truancy through early identification, assessment and prevention services, to enhance the accountability of students and families, and to limit a juvenile's exposure to the criminal justice system.

Laboratory Operation and Maintenance Fund (2008)
The Laboratory Operations and Maintenance Fund is designated for the retention of all revenues from laboratory fees. All laboratory fees charged and revenues collected are to defray the costs associated with the purchase, maintenance, operation, and utilization of City Laboratories, including but not limited to, infrastructure, equipment, supplies, software, and hardware systems, and with performing public health surveillance tests.

Parking Management Fund (8700)
This fund is responsible for managing and providing on-street parking alternatives to the citizens in the Greater Houston area. This fund is administered by the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department.

Parks Golf Special Fund (2104)
This fund was created to receive all City revenues derived from all City-owned golf facilities, whether operated by the City or private entities, including all related concessions fees, to be used exclusively for the maintenance, operating and improvements of any or all such golf courses.

Parks Special Revenue Fund (2100)
This fund is used to account for revenues and certain expenditures related to operations of the City's municipal golf courses and youth programs. This fund is administered by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Police Special Services Fund (2201)
This fund is used to account for activities that are not covered under the General Fund Budget. The activities include joint police operations, security and traffic control, undercover support services and use of HPD facilities. The Police Department administers this fund.

Recycling Expansion Program Fund (2305)
This fund was created to allocate dedicated funds to be used for the expansion and implementation of the City's Recycling Programs. Efforts include citywide tree waste recycling, additional neighborhood depository sites, curbside recycling and increased education and outreach. These efforts allow the City to improve its current landfill diversion rate. This fund is administered by the Solid Waste Management Department.

Special Waste Fund (2423)
The Health and Human Services Special Waste Fund pertains to fees issuance of permits or registration certificate. The Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) section is responsible for the permitting of all special waste generators, transporters and biological pretreaters in the City of Houston. The goal of the FOG program is to prevent the infiltration of fats, oils, and grease into the sanitary sewer, and to assure that the City's infrastructure and the health of the citizens are protected.

Supplemental Environmental Protection Fund (2404)
This fund is for the advancement of the goals of clean air and water and to enhance the community environment impacted by criminal environmental violators. This fund is administered by the Police Department.

Swimming Pool Safety Fund (2009)
This fund receives proceeds from enforcing municipal, state and federal pool and spa safety standards. State and federal pool and safety standards apply to all pools and spas serving more than two dwellings; in accordance with the requirements, operators of pool and spas at apartment or condominium projects are required to obtain permits and to comply with the standards. The fees collected in pursuant of swimming pool and spa safety are used for the purposes of activities related to permitting, inspecting, monitoring, abating, controlling, educating and enforcement of municipal, state and federal standards. This fund is administered by the Health and Human Services Department.

Technology Fee Fund (2207)
This Fund was established in FY2001 and is administered by the Municipal Courts Department. This fund includes expenditures for hardware/software maintenance and support, and debt repayment for the court's current case management system (ICMS). The final debt service payment is planned for FY14. Revenue is generated by the collection of a court fee for each paid conviction as allowed by State law. The purpose of the fund is to finance technological enhancements for the Municipal Courts and maintain systems to operate in an efficient manner.