

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Tuesday, January 15, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 15, 2008, Mayor Bill White presiding and with Council Members Toni Lawrence, Jarvis Johnson, Anne Clutterbuck, Wanda Adams, Mike Sullivan, M. J. Khan, P. E., Pam Holm, Adrian Garcia, James G. Rodriguez, Peter Brown, Sue Lovell and Jolanda "Jo" Jones; Mr. Don Cheatham, Division Chief, General Counsel Division, Legal Department; Ms. Debra Dillard, Citizens Assistance Office; and Ms. Marty Stein, Agenda Director present. Council Members Melissa Noriega and Ronald C. Green absent on personal business.

At 1:57 p.m. Mayor White called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Khan who introduced a group of students from a southwest school and asked them to stand to be recognized. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Rodriguez, Brown and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Lawrence stated that she had a Proclamation for someone who came to this country from South Korea with few dollars and worked hard and became internationally famous and invited Grand Master Pyang Kim Soo and his family to the podium and presented him a Proclamation proclaiming today as "Grand Master Pyang Kim Soo Day" in Houston, Texas; and Grand Master Kim Soo presented Mayor White and Council Member Lawrence with Black Belt uniforms. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Holm and Jones absent. Council Members Johnson, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

Council Member Garcia stated that he wanted to recognize an important person who had a lot to do with Houston's public safety and invited FBI Special Agent Andrew Bland III to the podium; that Mr. Bland was a 21 year veteran of the FBI with many accomplishments and was in charge of the Houston Field Office; and Mr. Bland stated that he was happy to make a presentation on behalf of the FBI; that this was an award for high safety priority and quality of life and ultimately one person was nominated and that was Mayor White; and presented him with the Director's Community Leadership Award for 2007; and Mayor White stated that law enforcement in the community was strengthened with joint works by the many agencies led by the FBI and HPD; that respect was given to those who put their lives on the line and thanked them for helping keep the city safe. Council Members Johnson, Rodriguez and Jones absent. Council Member Johnson absent.

Council Members applauded Mayor White on his award and the FBI on their works.

At 2:17 p. m. Council Member Adams led all in prayer and pledge.

At 2:18 p.m. the City Secretary called the roll. Council Members Noriega and Green absent on personal business.

Council Members Khan and Garcia moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Noriega and Green absent on personal business. MOTION ADOPTED.

Council Member Garcia moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of hearing Ms. Mitzi Flowers at the top of the three minute speakers list and add Sgt. Shawn Monroe to the list after Ms. Flowers, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Noriega and Green absent on personal business. MOTION 2008-0040 ADOPTED.

At 2:19 p.m. the City Secretary began calling the public speakers. Council Member Holm absent.

Mr. Mike Espinoza, 9988 Windmill Lakes Blvd., Houston, Texas 832-277-3903) appeared and stated that he was the political director for SCIU Houston Justice for Janitors Campaign; that in 2006 janitors went on a month long strike and won higher pay, access to affordable healthcare and vacation and sick days along with respect on the job, but today there were still thousands who scraped by on poverty wages and no affordable healthcare and many of them were employee by the corporate giant Aramark, a facility service company who contracted at some of the city's most prominent buildings; that today they had come to explain why they were forming their own union and why Aramark could do better for them. Council Member Holm absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Brown, Mayor White stated that with certain contracts Council adopted a prevailing wage standard which was updated by the department of labor and was a part of a study now; that he knew of the application of that to certain construction in Public Works and he was not as sure to the extent of that to a service contract; on the issue of fulltime employees who were direct contractors with the City of Houston, members of this body did something different from other Texas cities and they called it Pay or Play and city contractors in general had a good record compared to service contractors in general in coverage of fulltime employees with health benefits; and with respect to city employees themselves he had concern about making sure the lowest paid hourly workers in the City of Houston were taken into account and they did have ongoing and constructive negotiations; and Council Member Brown stated that as they evolve city policy paying living wage, certainly the city and hopefully their vendors, were giving employees adequate healthcare coverage; and he appreciated Mr. Espinoza coming and looked forward to constructive negotiations. Council Members Holm and Lovell absent.

Council Member Jones stated that she marched with the janitors when SCIU had organizers and she understood they had people work just enough hours to not pay benefits, they were experts at the rules, she was thankful they organized and she was happy to do what she could; and to Mayor White she would like to know the prevailing wage amount and the distinction between prevailing wage and minimum wage and what the lowest paid city workers earned; and Mayor White stated that another phrase was living wage and she would be given that information. Council Members Holm and Lovell absent.

Council Member Garcia thanked Mr. Espinoza and all with the SCIU for taking on the issue of janitors and hopefully they could move forward without some of the same actions taken last time around. Council Members Holm and Lovell absent.

Ms. Leah Rieves, 1704 Webber, Houston, Texas 77007 (713-574-6651) appeared and stated that she was furious about the baby left in November at a Fire Station on a slab of concrete near an air conditioner and she had a solution; that she proposed cubbyholes be built in hospitals for babies to be dropped safely and anonymously and there was such an experiment in Tokyo, Japan and it had been very successful; that once the baby was placed inside there was a lock so no one could kidnap the baby and an alarm went off in the hospital and nurses knew to get the baby and social services was called; that it would work in conjunction with the Baby Moses Project. Council Members Sullivan and Holm absent.

Mayor White thanked Ms. Rieves for her innovative ideas and if she had something in writing she could present it to Ms. Dillard. Council Members Sullivan and Holm absent.

Ms. Linda Mercer, 5807 Kansas, Houston, Texas 77007 (713-542-5071) appeared, presented information and stated that she was president of the Cottage Grove Civic Club and vice president of the White Oak Bayou Association and the TxDOT amendment to the 2008-2011 CIP had serious changing deadlines and today at 5:00 p.m. would be the end of public comment deadlines and it was to be voted on January 24th; that they also learned the contract

deadline was July 2008 instead of February 2008; and they had concerns with the three projects associated with the amendment; that they understood when the city purchased the MKT in 2007 the intention was to secure the real estate for the enhancement of the Houston Bikeway System. Council Members Holm and Rodriguez absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Lovell, Ms. Mercer stated that their concern was over the last 5 years following the detention projects and until recently it was known as a 1,000 foot grass long ditch and now it was being proposed to be a 1-1/2 mile long detention channel and intended to handle water from Washington Avenue north of I-10 where before it was intended to handle water for Hempstead; and Council Member Lovell stated that they were made aware of this yesterday and had been having conversations with TxDOT and it was true they changed the scope of the work and they were asking TxDOT to wait until they could have comments and they would also like TxDOT to explain if it was city property how they would tell us what they could do with it and they were working with Mr. Norman on this and TxDOT now knew they wanted things transparent, etc.; and Ms. Mercer stated that they would welcome an opportunity to meet with city departments and come into perspective on plans at some soon date. Council Members Holm and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Garcia thanked Ms. Mercer for advocating on behalf of her neighbors and Council Member Lovell for her support in the issue and stated that TxDOT communicated they were about 90% through with the work, but Public Works and Engineering had not necessarily been involved with the work and he was concerned about how far along TxDOT was getting without giving the city an opportunity to make sure detention and all other issues associated with this were looked at; that he wanted to work with them and it was important to pay attention to details. Council Member Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Brown stated that there was tremendous opportunity here to do a significant linear park and he was flabbergasted that in TxDOT's design on land owned by the city would be insensitive to the opportunity; and to Mayor White, Mr. Kevin Chanley had done extraordinary designs for nothing showing how beautiful this green space could be with the detention area, etc.; and upon questions, Mayor White stated that they wanted to find facts and get on track and that was what they were doing here, this was maybe the first he and others had known of concerns and they were being looked into. Council Member Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Jones stated that she would like to find out the facts and get on track, but she just received this and presuming the city had been involved in the past and TxDOT was doing whatever without communicating, she would ask Mayor White to get her a briefing so she could help if she needed to; and Mayor White stated that yes, Mr. Norman let that be done. Council Members Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Ms. Robin Holzer, 1306 Fairview, Houston, Texas 77006 (713-301-5716) appeared and stated that she served on the board of the Citizens Transportation Coalition and they had already heard this was a TxDOT project but it fell into the city's purview as there was a shared public asset, a long piece of right of way could become a lot of things, part of the bikeway program, a linear park and green space, a part of the commuter rail program, etc., and four public agencies with jurisdiction were interested in it; and her request was the same as Ms. Mercer's there was opportunity for coordination among the agencies to they could get the best project to maximize the long range value of the public asset; that TxDOT could not move forward until the TPC approved their amendment to the project plan which was scheduled for vote January 25th, but she hoped before that there could be conversation and dialogue. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Council Member Khan thanked Ms. Holzer for coming and upon questions, Ms. Holzer stated that she understood there was 1-1/2 miles of a long detention channel and it was

generally proposed to hold detention from the Hempstead Road Project, but now was meant to hold water from Washington north of I-10 and one thing not talked about was whether it fell within the scope of the environmental documents which were already done for the project; and Council Member Khan stated that he agreed they needed answers; and Ms. Holzer stated that there were ways to do many uses within that corridor if done right. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Council Member Lawrence thanked Ms. Holzer and Ms. Mercer for staying up on projects and she felt the problem with TxDOT was communication; that she did know of a 35 acre plot they were planning making detention but it had been sold, in order to make 290 work they had to move the detention, a lot of property they could not buy right now and as the value of property went up and more people wanted to be located further west on Hempstead Highway and prices went up, it was bought and there went the detention; that she had a meeting with the Harris County Flood Control Friday and would bring this up, it was a great idea for a park. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Council Member Garcia thanked Ms. Holzer and Ms. Mercer for giving their time; and upon questions, Ms. Holzer stated that she believed more participation improved quality of projects and she could think of no project where taking more time to do it right had any downside. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Council Member Lovell thanked Ms. Holzer for coming; and stated to Mayor White that this was an ongoing problem with TxDOT, a mindset, and the truth was it could have been avoided if someone would have called and said it was going to happen and the District Council Member could have weighed in, it was common courtesy that when changing plans they should let the city know; and she would like a letter from the Mayor, Public Works, etc., asking them to do so; and Mayor White stated that Ms. Holzer was a good example of good civic leadership; and to be correct TxDOT had no meetings he attended and there was a difference between the two things; and the other..., they confront this in Public Works, where they needed to talk calmly with each other was how did they deal with the situation if there was any change or proposed change to be altered; that the ultimate solution was to do real time on line postings; that he understood what the Council Member was saying and they needed to work together. Council Members Lawrence, Sullivan and Brown absent.

Ms. Mitzi Flowers, 1301 Travis #2000, Houston, Texas 77002 (713-335-9812) appeared and stated that she was with the Edge Petroleum Corporation, a Houston based oil and gas exploration company, and along with other oil and gas companies comprised an organization called Oilfield Helping Hands, a nonprofit organization comprised of volunteers from the local industry to provide financial assistance to oilfield workers in crisis and her colleague, Ms. Cindy Smith, was the head of the volunteer steering committee for Edge and she would like her to introduce Sgt. Monroe in support of their cause today, Homes for Our Troops; and Ms. Smith stated that she was present with Sgt. Monroe whose adapted home was built by Homes for Our Troops and also present was Mr. Richard Saxon who was president of Saxon Financial Industry and president of Oilfield Helping Hands; and Ms. Flowers stated that the Oilfield Helping Hands group, the OHH, was organizing a two day sporting clay tournament on January 25th and 26th and proceeds would benefit Homes for Our Troops, a nonprofit organization formed in 2004, which built or modified specially adapted homes for soldiers with life altering disabilities and injuries; that the OHH anticipated that over 2,500 people, over 80 Houston corporations as well as active reserves and retired members of the U. S. Armed Forces would be dynamically involved in the two day event and read a list of corporations; that they were present to raise public awareness to raise money to aid in the purchase of one of the homes; and extended invitations to all. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Council Member Garcia stated that anyone with a legitimate program for the veterans had

his attention; and allowed Ms. Flowers to complete her statement; and Ms. Flowers stated that on behalf of the OHH and HFOT they invited all out and to encourage them to mention the event for the public; and requested Mayor White to proclaim either day as HFOT Day in Houston and welcomed any additional suggestions to make the event one of the most successful in HFOT history and show the men and women dedicated to preserving the freedoms of this great nation that Houston cared. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Lawrence, Ms. Flowers stated that the event would be January 25th and 26th, held at Baroid on the Brazos in Fulshear, Texas; and Mayor White stated that they would get the Proclamation requested. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Sgt. Shawn Monroe, who was previously added to the speakers list, appeared and stated that he thanked Homes For Our Troops for building his home, it was so helpful for him as a wounded soldier and he knew there were more soldiers who needed such support and the support of the event would help more soldiers be more sufficient and he thanked all for helping the veterans and staying in support of the troops. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Council Member Garcia stated that Sgt. Monroe served in the U. S. Army Branch of the armed forces as military police; part of the 18th Military Police Brigade in Germany and he thanked him and those like him for serving this great country. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Council Members thanked Sgt Monroe and those like him for all they gave in serving this country. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Jones, Ms. Flowers stated that it was to be held January 25th and 26th at Baroid on the Brazos in Fulsher, Texas, 3575 Bouser Road; and Council Member Jones stated that not only did she thank Sgt. Monroe but also Ms. Flowers and those like her for supporting the men and women who returned. Council Members Sullivan, Holm and Lovell absent.

Ms. Margie Taylor, 3923 Cheryl Lynn, Houston, Texas 77045 (713-721-2194) appeared, presented information and stated that she was deed restriction chairman for the Hiram Clark Civic Club and asked those with her to stand to be recognized. Ms. Taylor stated that a new subdivision was being built around them and they were opening Regg Street and came into their subdivision and would cause traffic to be very heavy there and they instead would like the new subdivision to open West Airport; that she wrote to Public Works on December 10th and to Planning and the landowner and Council Member Edwards, but got no response, she later found out the Planning Department was to respond to them and talked to Ms. Jennifer Oslon who said they had been given the permit and did not give much hope that anything could be done about it. Council Members Holm and Lovell absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Adams, Ms. Taylor stated that she went to Gateway, the people building the homes and that was who said they had nothing to do with streets, it was Planning, but the residents were not consulted and no study was done and now they were asking for help in the matter as they needed no more traffic; and Council Member Adams stated that her office made contact with Ms. Oslon with Planning and they would like to get together with her, Mr. Penn of Gateway Homes, and Jennifer to see how they could resolve the issue; and her assistant Pedro would continue working with her. Council Members Clutterbuck, Khan, Holm and Lovell absent.

Council Member Jones stated that she wanted to work with the District Council Member so her office would assist Council Member Adams. Council Members Johnson, Clutterbuck, Khan, Holm, Rodriguez and Lovell absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Brown stated that her recommendation to have Regg extended north to W. Airport...; this was a perfect problem of street connectivity problems which bunched traffic up on smaller streets and made it difficult for police and fire to service; that she was right Regg should be extended and he could not believe Public Works or people approving plats did not require it; that it raised questions of White Heather also; and they needed to move forward on the connectivity problems; that they should not cram houses in, but instead extend streets for a safe neighborhood; and it was probably not too late to extend it. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Khan, Holm, Rodriguez and Lovell absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that she would like to see if Public Works could look into the Capital Improvement Plan; that she thought the area was slated for Airport to extend beyond the Brentwood Community and to Mr. Norman she would like to see the status about the Airport location; that she was communicating now with Mr. Donald Perkins because he had worked with her in the past because if Regg was opened all traffic would be dumped into the Brentwood Community; and Angel Lane was built in the back and they had only one way out. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Khan, Holm, Rodriguez and Lovell absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mayor White stated that they wanted to work with Ms. Taylor and to the Council Members who wanted to address this issue it was important for him that they all want to do what they said they would do, but he wanted to be careful in not over committing, he did not want to give her a line; that in general to Mr. Norman he would like someone to work with the District Council Member and him and to mention general guidelines, the one thing was to show where stub streets were so people would know what would happen next and on the issue of whether there should be an additional requirement of having access in another direction and as Council Members said who should pay for that, that was another matter, obviously they wanted people to circulate and they would take a look at what could be done and required, but in general they had not built streets with a CIP but if there was something they could do with the major thoroughfares like Airport then maybe they could take it up and he would work with Council Members to see what could be done on the CIP. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Khan, Holm, Rodriguez, Brown and Lovell absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Bettye Hollins, 12930 Regg Drive, Houston, Texas 77045 (713-434-5285) appeared and stated that it was proposed Regg be opened all the way to Airport and that would only make an Indianapolis Speedway and she did not want it opened to Airport; and she hoped she had not heard what she thought from Council Member Brown. Council Members Johnson, Khan, Holm, Rodriguez, Brown and Lovell absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Sharon Alexander, 4331 Oxford, Houston, Texas 77022 (713-691-5871) appeared and stated that she was mother of a murder victim and on November 7th she was crossing Crosstimbers with her grandbaby in a stroller and a car came and hit her and her grandson and she was on the hood and the evidence was in her hand where she pulled her windshield wiper; that she got the license plate number and Sgt. Tweety was in the Hit and Run Division and saying there was nothing they could do; that the plates came from a '57 Chevy and the one that hit her was a new Malibu and she had the name of the previous owner and the name of the one with the plates but the story was she did not hit her and she wanted something done. Council Members Holm Rodriguez absent.

Mayor White stated that a representative from HPD was present and if she had any additional information not provided to police she could give that to Captain Williams. Council Members Holm, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

Council Member Johnson moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of hearing Mrs. Lisa Demouchette and Mr. Donald Demouchette after Ms. Sharon Alexander, seconded by

Council Member Garcia. Council Members Noriega and Green absent on personal business. Council Member Jones absent. MOTION 2008-0041 ADOPTED.

Mrs. Lisa Demouchette, 1236 Bland, Houston, Texas 77091 (713-682-3833) appeared and stated that she was present to speak on an event which happened February 4th; that the street she and her husband lived on was the street the last female body was dumped on in Acres Homes, but her husband was walking to a stable there to check on a horse and he observed a neighbor who was in a drug deal and when he, Mr. Jackson, saw her husband he said what was he looking at and her husband replied he needed to go down where he lived to do that and Mr. Jackson said say one more thing and pulled out a gun and started shooting, missing him five times, but the sixth shot hit him in the leg before the gun jammed and then Mr. Jackson ran to his mother's home which was on the other side of them once her husband charged at him; that she called police and two arrived, Mr. Davis and Ms. Hampton or Hamilton, and her husband explained what happened and then the male officer went to where Mr. Jackson was and the female officer stayed; that when the male officer came out with a group of men her husband pointed him out and the female officer wanted her husband to go there but he said he would not go there, a gang of men was there and it was not safe and she said he was under arrest for not going. Council Members Lawrence, Holm and Jones absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Johnson, Ms. Demouchette stated that the female officer put her husband under arrest for not going and placing his life in jeopardy, she put handcuffs on him and threw him to the ground and all the time he was shot; that she then placed him in the squad car telling her to stand back, but the shooters mother was allowed to go to the car and talk and he could have been shot and killed right there; that they took him to Memorial Hospital at 610 and Ella and was treated. Council Members Lawrence, Holm and Jones absent.

Mr. Donald Demouchette, 1236 Bland, Houston, Texas 77091 (713-682-3833) appeared and stated that when he left Northwest Memorial Hospital she never said he was booked, she never read his rights, but they got to Riesner and then she discussed her personal business with Best Buy, having overdrawn her account, and she pulled up on the city computer the information and he still had blood going down his leg and after 30 minutes took him to the booking area where the doctor said they would not take him because he was still bleeding and so she took him to Ben Taub and she released him and said he was on his own and she would pick him up in the morning, but he was arrested in his own neighborhood for being shot; that he was working to protect his neighborhood and going to CIP and Town Hall meetings, etc., he was arrested for doing the honest thing and building up his community, but he might as well leave; that there was no police protection there. Council Members Lawrence, Holm and Jones absent.

Council Member Johnson thanked the Demouchette's for coming and bringing their children and stated that the city had encouraged all in the city to get more involved; that when they saw criminal activity they did not encourage them to get into hand in hand combat but they should let them know they were being watched and they appreciated him being diligent in that effort; that Acres Home had been notorious for a long standing history of criminal activity and it was a travesty when someone was doing the right thing and they were the one arrested and harassed; that he had spoken with Captain Williams who explained the situation, but to summarize Mr. Demouchette was shot by a drug dealer who recognized Mr. Demouchette who had seen the deal go down; that police arrived not knowing who the shooter was and pretty much everyone was being treated the same, which he understood, but he was perplexed that once they found Mr. Dmeouchette to be the victim and who was shot, he should have been treated differently; and then to take him to hospital, jail and another hospital and then leave him was a travesty; that now he had an open warrant for his arrest and Mr. Demouchette asked police to go on and take him to jail so he could get rid of the warrant; and he had instructed the Demouchettes to file with Internal Affairs a report and get to the bottom of it and he should also

file a restraining order against Gregory Jackson as he was out of jail on bond and lived next door; and he was asking the city and the Mayor get involved and find out what was going on and an open investigation so Mr. Demouchette could receive justice. Council Members Lawrence and Holm absent.

Mayor White stated to Captain Williams that he would make comments Chief Hurtt could be consulted with and command staff, but they did get a sense of direction; that on HPD's part he thought Internal Affairs investigation of certain aspects which would affect for example the warrant needed to be done extremely quickly, it was not to say things affecting the records of officers needed to be done in a half hazard way, but on the issue of the warrant; that secondly, he would say to the Demouchettes, their children and neighbors that he did not have all the facts, but people should bear in mind that officers who came onto a scene did not have all information that people on the scene had; that he had seen officers trying to give direction and the citizens knew what needed to be done and they did not do it within the time period the officers expected and there was friction, but if HPD could work through a situation and say confront someone engaged in bad activity, no officer or citizen was perfect, especially under stress, but there should be a little forgiveness and he would like to find a way to get on with this, and what would be a bad resolution would be if this lingered for two months; that they needed to get on with the business of him being safe from now on and if it included extra resources, if they needed special attention then so be it; and Council Member Johnson stated that extra resources had been placed in Acres Home and he did want to reiterate once it was found someone was a victim it should have been treated different; and Mayor White stated that for those monitoring this he was not agreeing or disagreeing with his categorization of certain officers but he would say they should all decide in their hearts how to deal with it from now on. Council Members Lawrence, Sullivan and Holm absent.

After a lengthily discussion Council Member Jones stated that she would like to speak with the Mayor and Police Chief about things she saw with police in her every day life, profiling, and in this case would like to know the female officers name and would work with Council Member Johnson in any way she could be helpful; Council Member Garcia urged Mr. Demouchette to continue his work in the neighborhood. Council Members Lawrence and Holm absent.

Upon questions by Mayor White, Ms. Demouchette stated that they need to make landlords responsible for their properties, if someone lived on their property and people told them they were drug dealers then the landlord should keep an eye on them and not just show up to collect rent; and Mayor White stated that Council Member Johnson had highlighted the issue awhile ago and to him, Ms. Stein and Mr. Cheatham they needed to think of operating procedures and ordinances and this was where they would need lawyers, but these days all had cell phones with cameras so why could people not take pictures and put it with the address and then them see who the landlord was right there on the computer screen, the contact information; that he knew sergeants did not have downtime, but if they did then maybe there could be a call list, people did not like calls from police sergeants; that there should be an assessable directory so citizens would know where landlords were. Council Members Lawrence, Holm, Garcia and Lovell absent.

Council Member Jones moved that the rules be suspended for the purpose of hearing Reverend Robert M. Gilmore, Sr., Pastor Carl Matthews and Ms. Sandra Massie-Hines out of order; a vote was not called as a quorum was not present. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Garcia and Lovell absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Robert M. Gilmore, Sr., 3232 Windern, Houston, Texas 77004 (281-546-8168) appeared and stated that the Mayor had said he prayed that those with important jobs did not think it made them more important than others they served and in that regard the District Attorney had a moral, ethical and personal and legal problem which was a systemic and

institutional racism perpetuated and they were asking for a number of things which spoke to the whole issue of what needed to be done in the community and reality was a rotten apple could spoil the whole barrel and that they saw with the D. A. and he was pleading and praying for people to stand up as leaders. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Garcia, Lovell and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Pastor Carl Matthews, 1709 Orr, Houston, Texas 77009 (832-443-8129) appeared and stated that in addition to what Rev. Gilmore had alluded to he was present on behalf of people he served in the spiritual aspect, he expressed their concerns of the immoral leadership from the D. A.'s Office; that poor judgment was exuberated and now the existing leadership was not trusted and they were requesting a change. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Garcia, Lovell and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Sandra Massie-Hines, 4425 Alvin, Houston, Texas 77051 (713-731-9806) appeared and stated that they were in prayer for the city, leaders, advocates, people, unity and justice and asking for leaders to come and join them for the Dr. Martin Luther King Parade in downtown, Houston; that Saturday, January 19th would be the Children's Parade. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Garcia, Lovell and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Khan thanked all for coming a speaking and with all going on in society and Monday all should come together; that forces were trying to turn the clock back and it was up to them and him to keep going on; and urged all to come together Monday for the M. L. K. Parade. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Garcia, Lovell and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that it was a blessing to see them and she thanked them for their services and compassion and she would continue to be there for them and so would her office. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Garcia, Lovell and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Brown stated that the occasion was for all and he would be at the parade; that Dr. King was an American hero; that regarding the District Attorney's Office Sheriff's Office, County Jail, they were all a part of the law enforcement system of the City of Houston and they should be held to a high standard; and what was going on in the D. A.'s Office was far from a model and it was unacceptable and major reform was needed. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Garcia and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Rodriguez stated that on behalf of his colleagues they wanted to offer condolences on her loss. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Garcia and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Cheryl Willis, 8523 Cowart, Houston, Texas 77029 (281-445-7008) appeared and stated that she was called into the City of Houston as a juror at Municipal courts, January 8th, she saw jurors coming in with tickets, but knew she had parked in the pay lot across the street, only after she got there found she had a ticket and was directed to go speak with Judge Barrera if she had a complaint and she did so; that he found it hilarious so many tickets were given and his comment was the best he could do was charge \$6.00 and that was what they paid her, but she thought in was not right; that she came on her civic duty and was going to pay \$8.00 to park there and she was given a ticket for backing in but she saw no signs. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Garcia and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions by Mayor White, Ms. Willis stated that it was Judge Barrera in Parking

Adjudication in the basement; and Mayor White stated to Ms. Stein and others monitoring this citizens who served on jury duty were VIPs and maybe Ms. Stein, Mr. Moore or Mr. Fontaine if Ms. Dillard could be given information and they could find out who was on duty that day he wanted to make sure the right hand knew what the left was doing, it was ridiculous, if someone was blocking an emergency lane or exit, ticket them, and he was embarrassed at the percentage who showed up for jury duty; and he wanted help in understanding what the person was thinking and to keep it from happening again. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Robinson and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Lovell stated that Mr. Barrera was not a judge but a judication officer and this could not be fixed here but maybe they could direct her to someone who could; and Ms. Willis stated that she gave them her six dollars back; and Council Member Lovell stated that the signs should be moved up where they could be seen and actually they should get free parking no matter where they parked. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Robinson and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Willis presented information and stated that another concern was her son was 18 and a driver and he was stopped by police and told he was going to jail because of a revoked license so they took him downtown; that if the Department of Public Safety sent the letter she had no proof. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Robinson and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions of Mayor White, Ms. Willis stated that he was told he had a revoked license, but they never received anything stating that and she now had his court date reset for February; that he wanted to be a U. S. Marshall but this was an ordeal and to her unfair; and Mayor White stated that the issue of the legislative law 3588 he had not heard of, having to pay a surcharge; that this illustrated, for people in Austin who passed such laws, if there was something on the computer which said license revoked it could be because they were out there with DWI's and manslaughter, in this case it was just that a fine was not paid, it put law enforcement in a situation. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Adams, Holm and Garcia absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Khan suggested Ms. Willis speak with her state representative; and Ms. Willis stated that she sent emails to everyone; and Council Member Khan stated that he was sorry this happened. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Adams, Holm, Garcia, Brown, Lovell and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Jefferson Town, 14422 Waterville Way, Houston, Texas 77015 (832-216-0980) appeared and stated that he did not come downtown often, but the parking meter he parked at was defective and he suspected others were also; that nothing on the meter said anything about putting the ticket on his dash, it said take the ticket and he did and put it in his pocket; that there should be instructions. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Adams, Holm, Garcia, Brown, Lovell and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Rodriguez thanked Mr. Town for coming and upon questions, Mr. Town stated that the meter was on Rusk and someone from Parking Management was present to speak with him; and Mr. Town stated that as a professional engineer the meters were defective. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Adams, Holm, Garcia, Brown, Lovell and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Jackaline Y. Hickman, Houston, Texas 1600 Louisiana #509, Houston, Texas 77002 (713-987-4046) appeared and stated that she had not had one dollar from FEMA and dealt with every condemnation; that she thanked the Mayor was the only end of government which responded and acknowledged her letter; Satan had no response to God's word; two years she

stood on God's word, put out of the hotel, because she would not denounce her Father; and continued expressing her personal opinions until her time expired. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia and Jones absent.

Mr. Reynaldo Loggin, 8158 Panay, Houston, Texas 77033 (832-373-6129) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia and Jones absent.

Ms. Annie Johnson, 7015 Hopper Road, Houston, Texas 77016 (281-590-7404) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia and Jones absent.

Mr. Wendall Amy, 2517 Binz, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-524-2904) appeared and stated that he was an employee at the George R. Brown Convention Center in the Housekeeping Department and he and his coworkers were present because they knew it was their platform to share with their representatives the issues which most affected them; that great cities should provide opportunity and not promote poverty; that they were proud of their work and should be able to feed their families and they believed the Mayor and Council would work with them to improve their lives and that of their families. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Maxine Isacc, 1309 Malzern, Houston, Texas 77009 (713-697-8440) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Anthony Parker, 4305 Phlox, Houston, Texas 77051 (713-731-7858) appeared and stated that he worked for Aramark as a food vendor at Minute Maid Park and to him his work was important, he worked to support his wife and baby girl and they were expecting their second child; that as the man of the house he had to be there for his wife and babies, but Aramark makes it hard to provide and without affordable healthcare he could not make sure they were healthy; that Aramark could do better for him, his family and his coworkers and that was why he was taking a stand and why he joined his coworkers to form a union and that was why they came today, so Aramark would be told to do better and pay fairly and he asked on behalf of all Aramark workers in Houston for the Mayor and Council's support. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams thanked Mr. Parker for coming and for his hard work in Sunnyside and being a union member of HOPE; that with a great representative like Mr. Espinoza working on behalf of the organization she knew they would work hard and her office would do all they could. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Sullivan stated that he thanked Mr. Parker for coming; that he was all about family and doing the right things and though he would not get in the union debate right now he thanked him for coming and doing a good job. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions by Council Member Jones, Mr. Parker stated that he worked for Aramark at Minute Maid and had one child and one on the way; that he worked with Aramark since '06 and he stopped in '07, but they paid \$7.50 and he worked 13 hours a day and checks would be

no more than \$61.00 or \$26.00; that he worked 4 days a week and no overtime; that his family had Medicaid; and Council Member Jones stated that she would like to get together and speak with his group. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Carolyn Cox, 505 Bayou, Houston, Texas 77020 (713-237-0618) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Venita Murdock, 320 Hamilton, Houston, Texas 77002 (314-750-8549) appeared and stated that she worked for Aramark in housekeeping at the George R. Brown and she kept restrooms clean as a part of her job; that it was hard, but she took pride in it; that she made \$6.30 a hour and had no health benefits or vacation or sick days and she did not think she or her coworkers were treated fairly; that Aramark was a very large company and could do better for them and she believed in faith and they were ready to do what was needed; and today they were asking for help to make their lives better. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions by Council Member Jones, Ms. Murdock stated that she had no insurance and if she was sick, she was just sick. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Bianca Garza, 1114 Sulphur, Houston, Texas 77034 (832-289-3597) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Ignacia Puente, 3614 Panwood Way, Houston, Texas (832-859-5615) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Alberta Perez, 4542 Rusk, Houston, Texas 77023 (713-923-4917) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Joseph Ballard, 6302 Rocky Nook, Humble, Texas 77396 (281-850-0388) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. John Johnson, 7102 Wendemere, Houston, Texas 77007 (832-453-1900) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Ruby Bennett, 744 Boeheman Drive, Houston, Texas 77091 (713-697-1709) appeared, displayed pictures and stated that she thanked the Mayor's staff and members of Solid Waste and Public Works for already calling her and working out problems, but she still had one problem, each time she went to the PIP meeting in Acres Home she would say they needed

cameras, they had a lot of hot areas with illegal dumping, prostituting, drugs and dead bodies; that people came out and even dumped under street lights; that they also had a problem with weeded lots and tires being dumped; that she would like help with the Housing Department, they had a contractor rebuilding Lincoln Park and he continually damaged residents houses and refused to pay; that she contacted the Housing Authority and had copies of letters, but they tore apartments down in high wind and no water and dust went all over everywhere; that the air quality study was done and showed them in violation and sited and she requested a meeting to nip problems but it was refused. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell stated that Council Member Jones was the new chair of the Housing Committee and she should speak with her and her staff and they would look into it and on the cameras and tires Chief Edwards was head of Neighborhood Protection and that was who needed to be contacted for cameras, but there was a shortage; and she understood Citizens Assistance was working with her on the issues. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Faye Webster, 799 W. Little York, Houston, Texas 77091 (713-692-9317) appeared, displayed pictures and stated that she was disturbed and disgusted that people building apartments had disrespected their property; that she just had her house painted and now it was full of dust and no one had come to ask about their damages and the demolition man wrote a letter on her stating she attacked a worker and he sent it to Housing; that she had arthritis and could not hit anyone, but it was in writing on her and unfair, she was not violent and she had babysat for Council Member Jones when her mama was in school, but no one wanted people to damage their property and theirs was terrible. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Jones stated that she would like to meet with her and help. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams thanked Ms. Webster and Ms. Bennett for coming and being leaders in their community; and upon questions, Ms. Webster stated that they wanted them to not leave their property as it was now but as it was before they came. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions by Council Member Adams, Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell stated that if it was apartments under the City's Housing Authority it would be an issue they would address and she understood that was so and if Council Member Jones would look into that; and Council Member Jones stated that they should not leave without speaking to her. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Khan stated that if the project was in the City of Houston whether it was private development or not they still issued permits and they should not mess up the neighborhood and he felt they had a valid point. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr/Coach R. J. (Bobby) Taylor, 3107 Sumpter, Houston, Texas 77026 (202-FA3-4511)

had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Joseph H. Burnley, 4218 Dragonwick, Houston, Texas 77045 (713-433-5080) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Dr. Oliver Kinchen, 6023 Pincay Oaks Drive, Houston, Texas 77088 (281-447-4049) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Barbarann La Course, lives at the YMCA Louisiana #902, Houston, Texas 77002 (832-880-2010) appeared and stated that she was present last week regarding being hit on a bike and she followed instructions and went to see if a report was filed and there was not, but she was given \$20.00 in front of the officer not to say anything and the officers should have followed her as she might have been hurt. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. James Partsch Galvan, 1611 Holman, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-528-2607) appeared and stated that the Clintons were slime bags who would say or do anything to get back into the White House and Comcast should consider themselves sued, they messed with the wrong Houstonian; that the Clintons did drugs and lied; and happy birthday to his brother Richard W. Galvan. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

At 5:20 p.m. City Council recessed until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 16, 2008. Council Members Noriega and Green absent on personal business. Mayor White, Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Garcia, Brown and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lovell presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

The Houston City Council reconvened at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 16, 2008, with Mayor Bill White presiding and with Council Members Toni Lawrence, Jarvis Johnson, Anne Clutterbuck, Wanda Adams, Mike Sullivan, M. J. Khan, P. E., Pam Holm, Adrian Garcia, James G. Rodriguez, Peter Brown, Sue Lovell, Melissa Noriega, Ronald C. Green and Jolanda "Jo" Jones; Mr. Arturo Michel, City Attorney; Mr. Anthony Hall, Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office; Ms. Martha Stein, Agenda Director and Ms. Marta Crinejo, Assistant Agenda Director, present.

At 9:29 a.m. Mayor White called the meeting to order. Council Member Lovell absent.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Police Initiatives

Mayor White stated that the folks who had been around City Council when it was time to vote for the last budget, and actually he guessed they began before then with reports and expenditures made by police, had been supporting a state of the art real time crime center to give the information tools that police needed in order to both do their job effectively in identifying crime patterns and catching criminals as well as maintaining a degree of accountability between the police divisions and various patrol districts in facilitating communication between them, that there were other crime initiatives and one reason why they were asking Chief Hurtt to appear and brief them and answer questions on these was that on occasion, on a big City sometimes,

somebody may come up with a good idea or suggest that they ought to think about something where they already voted to do it and they were doing it and they could only be as good as explaining to their citizens that they had listened to them and the administration, and to City Council that they had listened to them if they knew the facts of what these things were. Council Member Lovell absent.

Chief Hurtt stated that he wanted to share with Members of the City Council and the community some of the efforts they were making in the Houston Police Department with increased use of technology as well as more accountability to the individuals they had in the organization. Chief Hurtt reviewed a four page handout regarding "The Real-Time Crime Center", "Houston Regional Intelligence Service Center", HPD Command Staff Crime Prevention & Control Meetings and "Crime Reduction Unit". A copy of which is in the City Secretary's Office for review.

Mayor White stated that the police budget consisted of the following major items, the pay of the classified officers, pay rates, the pay rates of the civilian employees, the number of classified officers and civilian employees, the related pension costs for each, the related health benefit costs for each, if they added up those things they were some of the drivers; that in 2004 there was a 14% increase in the compensation of classified officers and since then there had been pay increases every year, that he did not have it department by department but citywide, on average over the last four years, the increase in average civilian compensation had been about 4% or above inflation, a combination of pay increases or promotions but without the same civilian workforce, that too often in the past he thought they had evaluated budgets, that he said in the past and some of it before this administration, just by reference to things like headcounts, but what they lost sometime when they did so was the emphasis on other operations within the Police Department equipment; for example, forensics, where they doubled the budget of forensics and they all knew some of the consequences of that; for example, patrol cars, where this year they probably had a record number of patrol cars on order, but the year before this administration none were ordered, there was a balloon note that was given to the; for example, radios, they were going to make a major investment of radios, it was the biggest capital expenditure on anything since he had been Mayor within the General Fund budget, and that was coming; and then computer technology and information systems that allows this, that the reason he pointed out this thing was that right now upgrading the equipment and headcount were very high priorities within the Police Department and there would be tradeoffs as they did these things, that they should not cut corners on some of the equipment and information system that the department needed just to get another 10 or 20 officers because they would not be as productive; that finally, he could tell them from his own personal experience in reading the crime reports and dealing with the Chief personally on crime trends that the police command staff did pay very careful attention to crime trends, as did the captains within their districts, that people who say otherwise simply had not been in the Police Department and did not know what was going on, that they could do a better job if they had more tools that they could use; that a couple of years ago when they first talked about it he knew that Chief Hurtt had some people who visited a number of different cities and asked if Chief Hurtt if he could describe what that process was; that their goal was not to spend more than other cities, if they decided they wanted to spend more than New York, for example, then they should be prepared to triple their property taxes, that their goal was to get the best value for the dollar.

Chief Hurtt stated that when they started to look into the 24/7 crime center they went around and looked at New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago and they took the best practices that each one of them had and put them into the Houston Crime Center and they did it at a very low price, the New York City system, which did not have all the capabilities that the Houston system had, was an \$11 million investment, that Houston was doing theirs for about \$2.5 million at this time.

Mayor White stated that the chief's themselves talked continually about different strategies for the use of information, how many meetings there would be, what would be discussed at the meetings, that if somebody wanted to get probably a pretty accurate view of Comstat that was invoked years ago, check out the series "The Wire" on HBO, that they did a pretty good depiction of what some of the interactions were in those meetings; that there was no magic bullet or panacea, what there was was hard working men and women constantly evolving the strategies to use modern computer and data technology and have the right balance between meetings and people out in the field.

Members of Council thanked Chief Hurtt for his presentation and questioned him at length as follows:

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she had two quick questions, the first, that last year when they passed the Apartment Registration Ordinance there was the commitment on the part of the Police Department to make real time crime data available in some format and she was wondering if this could apply to that, and second, would the crime origination and the arrest location be on the crime data or would there be a distinction; that she thought it was important that the arrest be reflected as originating where the crime originated.

Chief Hurtt stated that the ability to share the information with law enforcement that was one of the next steps in the process, they did not have the capability now to instantaneously share the information with the private sector or the citizens, but that was one of the next steps that they would be building in; that as far as information about the location where the criminal offense occurred and the arrest made, if they had that information they included that now, and in a lot of cases they knew specifically in apartment areas where there were convenience stores that the drug dealers conducted their business there at that store and the arrest may occur anywhere within that area, but with this system they would be able to capture not only the information and associates of that individual they would also merge or bridge the information of the convenience store and the apartment complex into their report.

Council Member Holm stated that she would request some time for discussion and some more information about it; and asked how were they tracking criminal activity and how would this help them do that and how do they get that data out so that not only internally with HPD was that information shared but she thought the citizens would have a lot more confidence if their policy makers were equipped with the same information; that how and who was deciding at what level did they forego 10 officers to invest in a great program; that she wondered if this would help them with the Apartment Ordinance,

Chief Hurtt stated that he mentioned that the next step would be that they would be able to share that information with the general public, that they were now sharing with members of HPD, and they did understand the importance of getting that because he spoke with some businessmen just the other day and they wanted to know what was happening in their area on a very timely basis so that they could advise each other and develop their own strategies to prevent them from becoming victims of crime; that as far as decisions to buy equipment versus officers, in this case with the 24/7 crime center, the equipment was purchased by the State, \$1.6 million, they entered into an agreement with the State because they wanted to look at what they were doing in Houston and see if it was something that would work in other places in Texas, so they invested in the equipment, that as far as the infrastructure and the people, that was being paid for by the City; that the ordinance reference, the apartments. and what they were doing on that, he thought, to be better able to address that issue was for them to put it on the agenda for a Public Safety Homeland Security meeting and talk about that specifically as a topic.

Council Member Sullivan asked how could he represent the interests of District E to the

best of his ability to insure that officers were not pulled out of District E, "low crime areas", to support the data driven decision that they were needed somewhere else.

Chief Hurtt stated that if they did have to make those decisions it would be on a temporary basis, but also they were in the process of adding additional officers to District E because of the issues they saw developing in the Kingwood area, they were going to get a TRACK team as well as some other support people to focus in on some of the increases that they were seeing in that area.

Mayor White stated that first, in the monthly crime report statistics, which did breakdown both in the Clear Lake and Kingwood districts, specifically they were broken down and the staffing was broken down within those districts, that it was a very good question, that he and the Chief had very specifically talked about making sure there was a level of staffing needed to make sure they had the appropriate response times in some of the areas that were perceived as lower crime areas, and around the Council table, from time to time, had resisted specific suggestions, and in civic club meetings, that more officers were being taken out of the low crime areas and put in the high crime areas, that some of that did occur when they allocate the new police but some of what he pointed out were lower crime areas where people wanted to take police out of were Clear Lake, Kingwood and the Central Business District, that he would say to Council Member Sullivan to be kept informed and hang in there, because he thought that every part of the City deserved to have some response time by it's emergency response professionals.

Council Member Khan thanked Chief Hurtt for attending the townhall meeting last night and asked Chief Hurtt to tell the people, in layman's terms, how the Real-Time Crime Center would address some of the issues which were raised by property owners and businesses in that area.

Chief Hurtt stated that one of the things that representatives brought up the other night was the issue of violent offenses that were occurring on the property and apartments as well as businesses, that the Real-Time Crime Center would give them a better picture quicker, more information, allow the officer that was going to the scene to be more informed of what was going on, give them information and in the future they would be able to even send photos, if they had the name of a suspect, to that officer in the field, that again the next step of it was to be able to share that information with property owners, businesses and apartment complexes, that as they increase the number of officers in the department and when they see issues especially apartment locations as well as major shopping centers they wanted to be able to increase the number of officers at store fronts, have officers that could spend time in prevention efforts with the individuals who owned those properties so that they could get them more engaged, and he thought that was one of the issues that they would like to see was people do not wait four or six months to have a townhall meeting but continuously have dialog with the storefront and the captains in that area about their concerns and the type of offenses that they were experiencing so that they could better respond to them.

Council Member Khan stated that he was glad the Chief Hurtt was addressing gang activity and asked how the school district police a part of this and how were they going around educating the young people that there was a way for them to anonymously report and tell the Police Department what pressures they were feeling about gang activity and things like that.

Chief Hurtt stated that they definitely would like to see more involvement of school district police but they had a role and had budget issues, but there was routine communication between the beat officers and the officers that were assigned to the school districts, and as far as the gang issue and the young people, he would like for them to get back to the staffing level where they had school resource officers, officers on campus and in the classroom talking to young

people in high schools because he thought that was where the breakdown came, up to about 13 or 14 years old parents, school, church and community had pretty much of a strong influence on those people, but at 15 years old and up they kind of turned them loose and they become very independent in making decisions and he thought that was where they needed to focus their attention on in establishing stronger relationships with individuals, that one of the programs that they were starting now was their GREAT Program, Gang Reduction, Education and Training, and they were doing that in three middle schools right now.

Council Member Green asked how did this differ from the Comstat Program.

Chief Hurtt stated that he would like to describe the entirety of all the effort they talked about today as Comstat on steroids because they were going to be able to provide more information than the system they had in New York, that he thought their system of sharing information between patrols and investigation was very promising as far as being able to immediately respond to problem areas as far as gang increase, that they were in the process of putting together some information that they would be able to share with the City Council and the general public and making comparisons of the Comstat system as well as their twenty four crime center, that he thought people would be glad to see the difference here in the City of Houston because like he said they had looked at best practices of those three large cities and had put together a program and the people in the right places to make sure that they were going to be effective in changing the crime picture in the City of Houston.

Council Member Green asked in the out years, the fiscal impact on their budget, that obviously they would need an increase in the future, and Chief Hurtt stated that when they looked at expanding the system and they were talking about wireless systems and they were also in the process of putting in smart boards in the stations where they would be able to share information instantaneously with the divisions out in patrol, the sergeant that was briefing the guys that were going out on the street, they would be able to give them information of everything that was happening on his or her beat, that they would be better able to use their time and know where to focus and they could also use that to be able to furnish crime analysis to them and share whatever information they had at headquarters or in the centralized area to them; that when they budget it out and look at that they were able to furnish information to a detective within an hour, or in some cases with CopLink, that he was very familiar with a system called CopLink, which they would be using in the City of Houston and that enabled detectives, where they usually have to spend two or three weeks on the street trying to find information about a deal or suspect involved, they would be able to get that information in six seconds, so those were the kind of things they weigh when they say is it better for them to invest here and had they done a five year projection on the cost, no they had not, but they would go according to as much as they could afford.

Council Member Green stated that as to the 60 officers, the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) was that a citywide 60 officers, that he knew they would concentrate on a specific area as needed but he guessed eventually was the plan to have many of those teams in different quadrants or different or different beats or to be there permanently, and Chief Hurtt stated that one of the things they intended to do was add 10 positions to that unit every year until they got 100 officers and that way they would be able to split groups of maybe 25 to one quadrant of the City or four quadrants of the City and work that way, but the divisions already had gang units and DRTs and support units in the divisions now, that they were going to have a meeting next month to look at staffing for the department based upon the graduating classes and they would address those issues then as far as not only the ability to answer calls but also to provide support units in the divisions, that the similar program that New York had, as far as the Crime Reduction Unit, they had 1,000 officers out of their 40,000, that they could send to a particular area and let them stay for four weeks or six months to work on a problem.

Mayor White stated that as to the questions that they get at civic clubs and the like, he wanted Chief Hurtt to agree or disagree with what he said, that when they put a unit in an area they do see crime drops and then the question they get from the civic club or the community group, what happens when it move on somewhere else, that from what they had seen in data this was probably a fair statement, that when it was in an area it looked as though crime went up, because they were making a lot more arrests and there was more zero tolerances on stuff, and then when the unit moved on yes they may see some uptake over time but it did not go all the way back to the level it was, because if they had a serial burglar or a gang member out of the neighborhood arrested, they take them out of the neighborhood; that was it true that where there was more police and more police presence over a sustained period of time they would have more crime lowered, yes, but also he would say that when they put the unit in the arrests would go up and probably the reports of crime would go up because there was some crime that was unreported and because they were there they would flag them down.

Council Member Jones stated that she would like a meeting with Chief Hurtt to brief her on the following questions, that when Chief Hurtt stated coordination between law enforcement, she wanted to know what that specifically meant; how did HPD determine how many officers were in an area and how many officers were assigned to those area; specifically how would Real Time give police more information compared to what they presently did now; and specifically when he said it was Comstat on steroids she would like to understand the details of that in a briefing; would HPD, for example, have uniformed officers in marked cars arrest the suspects and make it seem like they arrest the undercover officer; when they talked about the Apartment Ordinance, she was not familiar with it and wanted to become familiar with it, and asked Mayor White if she could have a briefing on it and if Chief Hurtt could tell her in that briefing if it had helped and if it was not working what needed to be done to fix it, she wanted to know how they were holding apartment owners responsible or liable because they knew what was going on, and Mayor White stated that they would get that to her.

Mayor White stated that for the people monitoring this and as they had hearings in the Public Safety Committee about it, that the real target was 50 to 100 apartment complexes out of some 2,600 in the City, so they were not targeting all apartment owners, but that small group accounts for a disproportionate amount of crime, and there was a lot of work being done, and asked the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee could hold a hearing on that.

Council Member Lawrence stated that listing apartments in order of crime on a website, that they could do so easily, she had been pushing it with Officer Anders and other assistant chiefs but it was not getting done and she thought that was the next step to ratchet crime that did not cost them any money; that as to the scrap metal she would truly urge Chief Hurtt to partner with the County because a lot of the crime, they now knew what they were doing and the strict things in the ordinance, so they knew what to take to the County and it may just be two blocks away; that as to page 4, Crime Reduction Unit, she was disappointed in the Crime Tip Line, not everything was a gang and certainly the Crime Stoppers line, that coexisted with HPD and Crime Stoppers should definitely be a method that residents could do anonymously as far as getting information out; to please give consideration to the website because when people see their name and they were number 15 in 15 apartments in an area they quickly clean up their act, it was just self motivation as far as rent.

Mayor White stated that with Captain Mark Eisenman present, Chief Hurtt had a couple of comments about the access of the public to information and so they could respond sooner rather than later, he would help by breaking it up into two pieces; the first thing that he thought they should address, or Chief Hurtt could report back to him and City Council on, was whether there were some existing tools, software they could buy, into which they could download the UCR data with geo coordinates, that he knew the answer to that because Channel 13 bought it, that he was talking about the UCR data so that by the following month, year-to-date over a

period of time, it was a little different than real time, but it was more real time than having to go to Channel 13's website to find the information.

Chief Hurtt stated that he thought the citizens did not want to wait 30 or 45 days after they had scrubbed the data and come up with the UCR definitions, they were more interested in the calls for service, what type of calls and how many calls on their block, whether it may be classified as a robbery when it was a burglary after they went through the coding or review process, that they just wanted to know what was happening on their block, so he thought they needed to look at how to get raw data to them quicker, and Mayor White stated that they could start by using some of the UCR data that he was talking about, that he thought that Chief Hurtt would find that was what they were doing in that location, how many assaults, how many robberies, how many rapes, etc., so they might start there, that also, Council Member Sullivan posed an issue, his community newspaper had wondered for some time why they could not get the best information in Kingwood, and if they used some of the existing software tools just to load the UCR data, geo code it, and he knew it existed.

Council Member Lovell stated that on page 2, the Houston Regional Intelligence Service Center, the Fusion Center, where was it located, and Chief Hurtt stated in the HEC Center, it was really led by the Criminal Intelligence Division, Captain Holland, who was in the audience, could give her a briefing on it and he could have him go and see her and give her a full briefing on the operation, membership and future plans, and Council Member Lovell stated that she would welcome that so if they could schedule it; and asked if part of the DPS involvement going to be to reach out to DPS and ask them to come patrol the freeways, since they pay for that, that it would allow their officers to come back in and cut down on the overtime that they were paying since it would free those officers from patrolling and if not DPS then the Sheriff's office or Metro, since they did not have a shortage of officers and the City did; Chief Hurtt stated that they tried that approach several years ago, and in fact he was in a meeting where Senator Whitmire requested from the director, why did they not patrol freeways in the City of Houston, and they said they did not want to, they would rather concentrate on the rural areas and the seasoned towns in the rural areas in parts of the State of Texas, that he was sure that decision was based upon their ability or capacity to work the freeways in large cities as well as to work the freeways and State roads and rural areas, and Council Member Lovell stated that they should continue to ask and would like to try again and if it would take a letter from the Council they would be happy to do that, and Chief Hurtt stated that whatever information they needed from them referencing their commitment to the freeways he would gladly provide it and they could include it in their letter.

Council Member Brown stated that he wanted to know how they could move the program forward if it was going to get better results; that he had a discussion last week with Chief Lumpkin and he said they needed a stronger ordinance to deal with the vacant buildings that were not boarded up, that the legal procedure that they had to go through to get a landlord to take some action was just too onerous, so he would offer it as another aspect of this, that maybe they needed a new ordinance about vacant buildings that would give police the ability to act faster to get the crime breeding places closed down.

Mayor White stated that the next more lengthy Mayor's Report, because Council Member Brown was absolutely right about the critical feature about vacant buildings, would be sort of report and any discussion around the table of what they were doing on vacant buildings and how long it took, and how could they expedite it, was it procedural, that the State changed its rules in May 2007 making it much more difficult for them to take down vacant buildings, why, he had no idea, and Council Member Brown stated that what he was talking to Chief Lumpkin about was not necessarily demolishing the buildings but being able to cite the building itself, to notify the landlord of his responsibility to board up the building and if that was not done for a team from the City to go in and board it up and put a lien on the property, and then after that go

through proceedings if it was a dangerous building to have it torn down, that he clearly expressed the desire to have greater authority through the ordinances to be able to do that.

Chief Hurtt stated that they recognized that technology was not the answer to all and whatever comparison that they had made to New York or Chicago, one of the things they had to remember, especially in New York, was the number of officers that they had that they could assign to one square mile, that they had 40,000 officers and Houston had 4,800 officers, that the City of Houston was somewhat larger in space and more complicated as far as the makeup when they talked about density and open space than Chicago, that as far as centralization that was good if they had the people to send out an effective team to different divisions within the organization where they could be effective versus diluting the resources they had, they constantly reexamined what they did have, how effective they were using them to get the desired result, so the issue about swat teams, yes, if they were able to have 200 or 300 people assigned to swat they could have swat teams in each quadron of the City, they were not there, if they had that they would not be able to respond to calls for service, so they thought the best approach for them was to look at a balance between technology and the hard working people that they had out on the street, the men and women, as well as the supervisors and captains, and making good decisions every day with a department that was struggling to come up to sufficient staffing and they needed to appreciate those efforts, and the issue of dealing with petty crime, one of the big issues that they had to address as a City, County and State, was the mentally ill that were in their community and have the resources for treatment and being able to respond, there should not be the continuous training and increasing police officers to deal with mental health issues that should be done by the service providers at a different level of the government and they around the table and citizens of Houston needed to demand their participation and their coming to the table every day.

Council Member Johnson stated that as he looked at the report those were the things that he really wanted to start looking at, how do they reduce the crime, that in many of his neighborhoods the crime was not being reported because many of the residents were fearful of the criminal element, that they chose to take a hands off approach because they fear for their life or their own safety, so they could not really rely on the statistical data that demonstrated that was where the crime was taking place because certainly it would not tell them what they needed to know, so that was why he really wanted to start looking at ways in which the police department could start getting into the communities and help people to make those calls, but when those calls were not made and they still knew where that crime was taking place they had to do a much better job of touching that element to make sure that although there might not be many calls they still knew that there was still crime there so they would address that criminal activity that was taking place in that neighborhood.

Chief Hurtt stated that where they were effective in doing that was fully staffed storefronts in those communities where positive relationships were established and people were not afraid to talk to police officers, when they get to that staffing level they would be able to do a better job, that in those areas where they knew that there was crime being committed with the resources that they had they were responding to them, they had a very aggressive program now targeting the eight liner locations throughout the City with undercover officers and they were going to train patrol officers to do the same because in his opinion when people see gambling openly within the community or next door they see the City as being lawless, so they were going to focus in on those types of crimes and also having the ability to see a gang of people or group of people standing on a corner, if they had the resources of officers or just have an officer and sit with his patrol car, and then also interact with those individuals, asking who they were and why were they standing out there and getting their description, just sitting there would disrupt that kind of activity, that all it would take was additional resources, they knew what to do, they knew where the crime was, give them the stuff to get the job done.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that looking at slide number 4, Crime Reduction Unit, bullet number 4, educate the community, enlist their support, of course he was very supportive of that initiative, they had about 35 or so active civic clubs in District I and about half of them had a regular HPD officer attend their civic clubs, that he thought it was important that they were out in the community, they were receiving data and giving out information and enlisting the support, but the other 15 or so did not have a regular officer attend their meetings, so he would like to work with Chief Hurtt's office in identifying those civic clubs who did not have an officer there and work at getting someone there regularly because he thought it really helped to share that information and collect those complaints and concerns and they could respond to those.

Chief Hurtt stated that definitely they would like to do more of that but again they look at their resources, do they answer calls, focus on prostitution, drugs and gangs, make sure they had a good response time, were they proactive, that he could not guarantee that they were going to do it right away but if he did give them the information they would have their officers try to double up on some of those meetings, that maybe officers could share civic clubs or they could do a better job of maybe providing that information to them through the internet or some other source, that they did realize that they not only needed to be high tech but high touch, that was in constant contact with people in the community; and Council Member Rodriguez stated that he agreed with that, and he did see officers attend multiple civic clubs, that Officer Rick Trejo was a good example, that it seemed very effective and the community really trusted him and they worked with him and did share information.

Council Member Noriega stated that she wanted to revisit a point, that there really had been more conversation about Comstat and about those kind of issues in the newspaper and community than some things, again, for the sake of their audience and the folks that were listening, did this process, set of techniques and strategies, address the issues that Comstat addresses.

Chief Hurtt stated that yes it most certainly did, it held individual captains accountable for their areas, they were the ones that identify the problems and they established the programs to resolve it and they also get assistance from other parts of the department's investigations as well, that as he stated the decision to deploy the Crime Reduction Unit was made by the captain and assistant chiefs based upon the activity in a particular area, that as far as the numbers, they were going to be able to do a better job of counting the crime, the criminal activity, and as they increased the technology they would be in a position where they would be able to predict where crime may be occurring in the future and move resources into those areas, so he was very confident that they were answering those questions and concerns about would Comstat do what they were doing in New York as far as lowering crime, that Comstat worked in New York because they had so many more officers that they could focus on an issue, that was something that they were lacking in their part of the program; that the Real-Time Crime Center was just the information analysis, but what got it done was the coordination of efforts by the captains, that the combination of everything he had said got it done.

Mayor White stated that they might as well say it so that everyone knew what the issue was, that somebody could say accountability and decentralized, and of course their patrol districts were decentralized, but ask themselves what was the legal mechanism under Texas law for removing a captain, how many people here knew how people became captains in the police department, that there was an advantage to the Texas system which was that unlike some urban police departments, and they were very proud of it, and now they were very proud that the same thing existed in fire, that they had not politicized the promotional process, they wanted to set the standard for professionalism, but on the flip side, they were not just going to assign a captain and make infinite new captains, that he would not pursue that any further but would say that they test into their position for a lot of these positions and in part that was designed to prevent sort of political interference or favoritism in the process, but if somebody

was a low performing blank, by some measures sergeant, lieutenant or captain, then there were some tools, so if they wanted to do the police department in 10 years compared to where it was now, and they made tremendous progress in the last 30 years in their police department in professionalism, that one would have to ask what kind of tools should management of the police department have to assign and reassign responsibilities that would not introduce an element of favoritism or discrimination into the process.

Chief Hurtt stated that he had a conversation with Captain Brown at the Northeast Station, and as they knew he had been doing a great job since he left the Homicide Division and gone to the Patrol Division in directing troops and directed patrol and programs to reduce crime, as well as the other captains, and as great a job as he was doing, this morning he led the discussion with the officers in roll call with Chief they needed more officers to respond to calls, to make sure that they got to the calls on time, that when they talked about Comstat and their philosophy and technology, the basic element in policing had been since day one and would be a thousand years from now, was the ability for them to have the human resources to respond in a timely manner and for them to give them the equipment and technology and training and support, that he would put the command staff and the men and women of the Houston Police Department up against Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Arizona and any police department in the Country any day, just give the resources, allow them to do the job and they would say significant improvement in crime in the City of Houston.

Council Member Adams stated that she wanted to thank Chief Hurtt for his continued efforts to bridge the partnership among the County officials because she had the opportunity to meet with Constable May Walker and she was pleased about the meetings they were having concerning the help with the partnership to decrease crime in the District D area; that as to the Crime Reduction Unit, if they had a community who had seen an increase, whether it was robberies, burglaries, crime, gang, graffiti, tagging or whatever it may be, how could a community get the CRU to their community with the 60 officers.

Chief Hurtt stated that he would answer the role of the citizen in crime prevention, their responsibility if they saw a crime being committed was to call them, they were the eyes and ears of the Houston Police Department and if there were significant problems in a patrol division their first stop was the door of the captain in that area, whatever the problem was, and the captain with the resources he or she had would then respond to that, and if it got to the point that they did need the CRU group or other assets that they had in the department then they would make that request through the chain and they would do what they could to respond to them, and if that meant sending a CRU to that area they would do it.

Council Member Sullivan stated that they had a high level of activity and interaction with the constables, both in Kingwood and Clear Lake, so when Chief Hurtt referred to coordination with other agencies what he was hearing in the community was that Constable Bailey and Constable Hickman had been getting a lot of calls that were quick service, come out real quick, that those calls he did not think get into the Houston system, so if Chief Hurtt could just give that some thought as he moved through whatever they developed to get input from the constables of the service calls they were making as well because of the private contracts they had within the communities that were in District E, and other communities as well.

Chief Hurtt stated that he had established meetings with the representative of all the constables or they were there in the meetings, to try to establish Memorandums of Understanding of have them come into the City, that one of the things they said was that they would need training if they were to do a lot of criminal enforcement or deal with graffiti or deal with eight liners or some of the nuisance cases, that they did a very good job in traffic, he saw them all over writing traffic citations, that they were in the process, some constable districts were more active than others right now, when they had the issue on the west side of town the

constable office there sent 15 of his deputies in to assist to deal with the other issues, that on the north side Constable Abercia, they share some of the radios that they had and share also the same facility with Houston, the Sheriff's office and DPS, that Constable May Walker had already sent her letter that said they were ready to go, train them and put them on the street, so they were moving more toward that because there were some issues of citing individuals into City court and making sure that they use the same court days that the constables had when they were going to the JPs, that they were also looking to their legal advisors in the County to see how far they could go in an agreement with them.

Council Member Jones stated that she wanted to see an update on the coordination, that she would like to see in the briefing the coordination on the backend, for example sharing information with the District Attorney's Office, that she would like updates on the captain situation that the Mayor made reference and Comstat; that she would quote Chief Hurtt, "give us the resources we know what to do", she did not know if that meant give them more resources, because her concern was that the Public Safety budget ate up 58% and there were other cities that were safe that used a lot less of a percentage, so they needed to have some discussion if he was asking for more money and she did not see how the City could provide all the other services that it must provide to the citizens if they eventually ended up giving all that money to public safety.

Chief Hurtt stated that as to the reference of the DA's office and the Houston Police Department, they were in the process of having discussions with them right now to have better access to their computer system and they to have better access to information within the Houston Police Department, they had long term programs under way to have a laboratory information system so evidence that was in the property room, that was where it had been transferred to the DA office, they would be able to track that and connect that also to cases to do a better job of making sure that it was where it should be on time and in the right place, that right now those systems did not exist but they knew they needed to be place and were working towards that.

At 11:06 a.m. Mayor White recognized Council Member Garcia for a point of personal privilege. Council Members Rodriguez, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Garcia stated that he wanted to recognize three captains that were present in the audience, Captain Graham, who was over the Gang Division, Captain Moore, who was over the Burglary and Theft Division and the Scrap Detail and Captain Holland, over the Criminal Intelligence Division, that he wanted to thank them for the work they do. Council Member Noriega absent.

Mayor White stated that he wanted to thank them to, that his comments were intended just as a recognition of something the Chief had taught him, that where the rubber meets the road was in the various divisions, patrol divisions, the work of the Captains, Lieutenants and other officers there and they had an excellent group within the City of Houston. Council Member Noriega absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck moved to suspend the rules to consider Item Numbers 13, 13a, 13b and 13c out of order, seconded by Council Member Khan. Council Member Noriega absent. MOTION 2008-0042 ADOPTED.

13. **ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to a reorganization of the functions of the Finance and Administration Department; creating a new Department of Finance and a new Department of Administration and Regulatory Affairs, abolishing the Department of Finance and Administration; authorizing the transfer of budgetary authority among certain departments

and funds; redistributing authorized positions among certain departments and funds; containing other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; providing an effective date; providing for severability; and declaring an emergency – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Green. Council Members Adams and Noriega absent. (Note: Council Member Green released his tag later in the meeting.)

- 13a. ORDINANCE amending Exhibit “A” of City of Houston Ordinance No. 90-1292 (as amended by City of Houston Ordinance No. 2007-390), to amend the Master classification ordinance to add, revise and/or delete certain classifications substituting the amended exhibits as part of the current master classification listing; providing for severability – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Green. Council Members Adams and Noriega absent. (Note: Council Member Green released his tag later in the meeting.)
- 13b. REQUEST from Mayor for confirmation of the appointment of **MS. MICHELLE MITCHELL** as Director of the **FINANCE DEPARTMENT** – was presented.

Council Member Clutterbuck moved to confirm Ms. Michelle Mitchell as Director of the Finance Department effective January 26, 2008, seconded by Council Member Garcia, and tagged by Council Member Green. (Note: Council Member Green released his tag later in the meeting.)

- 13c. REQUEST from Mayor for confirmation of the appointment of **MR. ALFRED MORAN** as Director of the **ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT** – was presented.

Council Member Clutterbuck moved to confirm Mr. Alfred Moran as Director of the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department effective January 26, 2008, seconded by Council Member Garcia, and tagged by Council Member Green. (Note: Council Member Green released his tag later in the meeting.)

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she wanted to take the opportunity to recognize Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Moran who were present in the audience with some family members or friends, that just so everybody was understanding the procedural moves that were happening at the table were not at all a reflection, in her opinion, of the character and quality of the individuals, but because they were linked to the previous item and they needed some questions answered on those, but they wanted to thank them for being present and were really looking forward to working with each of them.

Mayor White stated that they were so lucky to have Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Moran being willing to be public servants for the City, and to push Houston forward in having the best financial management and business practice of any big city in the United States.

At 11:12 a.m. Mayor White stated that they would move to the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 33

ACCEPT WORK - NUMBERS 2 through 5

2. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$1,282,562.34 and acceptance of work on contract with **LEM CONSTRUCTION CO., INC** for Pressure Reducing Valve Station Improvements Package III, WBS S-000900-00A7-4 - 14.27% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICTS B - JOHNSON; E - SULLIVAN and I – RODRIGUEZ** - was presented, moved

by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0043 ADOPTED.

3. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$4,568,516.63 payable to the **Surety, ST. PAUL FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY** on contract awarded to **CONTRACTOR TECHNOLOGY, LTD.** and acceptance of work for 30-inch and 48-inch water line along Alameda Road and Holcombe Boulevard from North MacGregor Way to South Braeswood Boulevard, WBS S-000900-0090-4 0.45% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICT D - ADAMS** - was presented, moved by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0044 ADOPTED.
4. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$1,051,223.71 and acceptance of work on contract with **BRH-GARVER, CONSTRUCTION, L.P.** for Construction of 24-inch water line along State Highway 6 from Barkers Point Lane to Grisby Street and Conrad Sauer Pig Launching/Receiving Station, WBS S-000900-0096-4 - 8.04% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICT A - LAWRENCE** - was presented, moved by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0045 ADOPTED.
5. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$1,924,071.53 and acceptance of work on contract with **TROY CONSTRUCTION, L.L.P.** for Water Distribution System Rehabilitation and Renewal, (WA 10873) 0.84% over the original contract amount - was presented, moved by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0046 ADOPTED.

PROPERTY - NUMBER 6

6. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney to deposit the amount of the Award of Special Commissioners, into the Registry of the Court, pay all costs of Court and withdraw objections to the award in connection with eminent domain proceeding styled City of Houston v. FYI Group, a California corporation, et al., Cause No. 899,129; for acquisition of Parcel AY6-045; for the **LONG POINT @ WIRT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (Pine Chase - Johanna)**, WBS/CIP N-000674-0001-2 - **DISTRICT A - LAWRENCE** - was presented, moved by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0047 ADOPTED.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS - NUMBERS 7 through 11A

7. **EQUIPMENT SUPPORT SERVICES, INC** for Forklift through the Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing with Houston-Galveston Area Council for Houston Airport System \$60,130.00 - Enterprise Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0048 ADOPTED.
8. **TENNANT SALES AND SERVICE COMPANY** for Riding Sweeper and Power Scrubbers from the State of Texas Procurement and Support Services Contract through the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program for the Convention & Entertainment Facilities Department \$79,693.19 - Enterprise Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0049 ADOPTED.

9. **LONE STAR UNIFORMS, INC** for Motorcycle and Mounted Patrol Apparel for Police Department \$426,880.00 - General Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0050 ADOPTED.
10. ORDINANCE appropriating \$1,186,306.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund for Emergency Replacement of 78" sanitary sewer line under Noble Street near the intersection with Gregg Street for the Public Works & Engineering Department, WBS R-000019-0042-4-01-01 - **DISTRICT H - GARCIA** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0033 ADOPTED.
- 10a. **BOYER, INC** for payment in the total amount of \$1,186,306.00 for Emergency Replacement of 78" sanitary sewer line for the Department of Public Works & Engineering - **DISTRICT H - GARCIA** - was presented, moved by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0051 ADOPTED.
11. ORDINANCE appropriating \$186,614.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund for Emergency Replacement of 1,648 linear feet of sewer line in the 2900 block of Fairhope, 8400 block of Bluegate and 8200 block of Lorrie for the Public Works & Engineering Department, WBS R-000019-0045-4 - **DISTRICT C - CLUTTERBUCK** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0034 ADOPTED.
- 11a. **TROY CONSTRUCTION, L.L.P.** for payment in the total amount of \$186,614.00 for Emergency Replacement of 1,648 linear feet of sewer line for Department of Public Works & Engineering **DISTRICT C - CLUTTERBUCK** - was presented, moved by Council Member Garcia, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0052 ADOPTED.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 12 through 33

12. RESOLUTION approving and adopting a revised Investment Policy for the City of Houston - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. RESOLUTION 2008-0001 ADOPTED.
15. ORDINANCE finding and determining that public convenience and necessity no longer require the continued use of Redwood Street, from Palmetto Street to Rustic Lane (Parcel SY7-019); vacating and abandoning said parcel to Houston Community College System, the abutting owner, in consideration of its dedication back to the City of said parcel as a full-width utility easement, designated Parcel VY7-031; both parcels being out of the Pecan Park Replat and Extension, out of the Jacob Thomas Survey, Abstract 74, Houston, Harris County, Texas; its agreement to mitigate any potential traffic problems arising from the street's closing; and its payment of \$63,915.00 and other consideration to the City; approving and authorizing said agreement **DISTRICT I - RODRIGUEZ** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0035 ADOPTED.
16. ORDINANCE finding and determining that public convenience and necessity no longer require the continued use of excess fee-owned East 11th Street right-of-way (Parcel SY7-045), being the remainder of Lot 2, Block 1, Norhill Addition, John Austin Survey, A-1, Houston, Harris County, Texas, containing 1,158 square feet (0.0266 acre) of land, more or less; vacating and abandoning said tract of land to Alexander A. Valdez and wife, Nancy L. Valdez, abutting owner, in consideration of owners' payment of \$28,950.00 and

other consideration to the City - **DISTRICT H - GARCIA** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0036 ADOPTED.

17. ORDINANCE finding and determining that public convenience and necessity no longer require the continued use of a 15-foot wide alley, located between Patterson Street and Fowler Street, located between Lots 1 through 5 and 8 through 12 and between Lot 6 and a portion of Lot 7, Block 56, Brunner Addition, John Austin Survey, A-1, Harris County, Texas, containing 3,750 square feet (0.0861 acre) of land, more or less; vacating and abandoning said tract of land to Washington 4500, L.P., the abutting owner, in consideration of owner's payment of \$150,000.00 and other consideration to the City - **DISTRICT H - GARCIA** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0037 ADOPTED.
18. ORDINANCE finding and determining that public convenience and necessity no longer require the continued use of a 7-foot-wide sanitary sewer easement located between Sackett Avenue and Ferndale Place, at the rear of Lots 3 and 4, Block 19, E. C. Crawford Addition; Parcel SY7-058; vacating and abandoning said parcel to Belle Meade Investment 2006 L.P., the abutting owner, in consideration of its conveyance to the City of a 15-foot-wide access easement, from the new terminus of the sanitary sewer line east along the southern boundary of Tract 1, Block 5, Kerr's Ferndale Annex to the Ferndale Place right of way; Parcel AY7-442; and its payment of \$300.00 (minimum fee) and other consideration to the City; the abandonment parcel and the conveyance parcel both out of the A. C. Reynolds Survey, A-61, Houston, Harris County, Texas - **DISTRICT C - CLUTTERBUCK** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0038 ADOPTED.
19. ORDINANCE consenting to the creation of **HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 505** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0039 ADOPTED.
20. Omitted
21. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **SERVICE OF THE EMERGENCY AID RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS, INC** to provide \$165,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant Funds and \$145,000.00 in General Funds to assist in the administration and operation of the Emergency Mobile Outreach Program **DISTRICT D - ADAMS** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0040 ADOPTED.
22. ORDINANCE appropriating \$370,000.00 out of Public Health Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing Professional Services Contract between the City of Houston and **GILBANE BUILDING COMPANY** for Pre-Design Services of Consolidation of Three-Houston Health and Human Services Department Facilities, WBS H-000071-0001-3 - **DISTRICTS D - ADAMS and I - RODRIGUEZ** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0041 ADOPTED.
24. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **GROUP 1 SOFTWARE, INC** for Software Licenses, Maintenance and Technical Support Services for the Utility Customer Service Branch of the Public Works & Engineering Department; providing a maximum contract amount - 3 Years with two one-year options - \$393,630.00 - Enterprise Fund - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0042 ADOPTED.

25. ORDINANCE awarding contract to **LIBERTY TIRE RECYCLING, LLC** for Used and Scrap Tire Disposal Services for Solid Waste Management Department; providing a maximum contract amount - 3 years with two one-year options - \$1,480,000.00 - General Fund - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0043 ADOPTED.
27. ORDINANCE finding and declaring public convenience and necessity for the acquisition of easements for rights-of-way in connection with the public improvement project known as the Texas Avenue Lift Station and Force Main Project; authorizing the acquisition of certain real property interests within the right-of-way alignment and payment of the costs of such purchases and/or condemnations of such real property and associated costs for Appraisal Fees, Title Policies/Services, Recording Fees, Court Costs, and Expert Witness Fees in connection with the acquisition of easements in, over, upon, under, and across 7 parcels of land situated in the S. M. Williams Survey, Abstract No. 87, Harris County, Texas, and being more specifically situated out of property conveyed by instruments recorded in the Real Property Records of Harris County, Texas with File Numbers U955383, E651745, or in Volume 402, Page 602, and Volume 2367, Page 737, of the Deed Records, of Harris County, Texas - **DISTRICT H - GARCIA** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0044 ADOPTED.
28. ORDINANCE appropriating \$165,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund as an additional appropriation for Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **CIVILTECH ENGINEERING, INC** for Design of Neighborhood Sewer System Improvements (Approved by Ordinance No. 04-0714), WBS R-002011-0043-3; providing funding for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT D - ADAMS** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0045 ADOPTED.
29. ORDINANCE appropriating \$5,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing Professional Construction Management and Inspection Services Contract between the City of Houston and **TLC ENGINEERING, INC**, WBS S-000600-00B7-4 - **DISTRICTS A - LAWRENCE and B - JOHNSON** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0046 ADOPTED.
31. ORDINANCE appropriating \$101,252.00 (This amount includes \$96,430.00 estimated cost of pipeline and \$4,822.00 City Salary Recovery Costs.) out of the Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund No. 4506 for the removal or relocation of pipelines for the Mesa Drive Reconstruction Project (N-000680-0002-4); approving a Reimbursement Agreement with **LONGHORN PARTNERS PIPELINE, L.P.** - **DISTRICT B - JOHNSON** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0047 ADOPTED.
32. ORDINANCE granting to **CAPTAIN HOOK OF HOUSTON, LLC, a Texas Limited Liability Corporation**, the right, privilege and franchise to collect, haul and transport Solid Waste and Industrial Waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and conditions; and making certain findings related thereto - **FIRST READING** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0048 PASSED FIRST READING IN FULL.
33. ORDINANCE granting to **LEGACEE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC d/b/a TEXAS WASTE CARRIERS, a Texas Corporation**, the right, privilege and franchise to collect, haul and transport Solid Waste and Industrial Waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of

Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and conditions; and making certain findings related thereto - **FIRST READING** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0049 PASSED FIRST READING IN FULL.

MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE CONSIDERED AS FOLLOWS:

MISCELLANEOUS

1. RECOMMENDATION from Mayor's Office of Government Affairs for renewal of Annual Membership in the **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL** - \$78,145.24 - General Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Garcia. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2008-0053 ADOPTED.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

14. ORDINANCE **AMENDING ARTICLE IX OF CHAPTER 45 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to Parades - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0050 ADOPTED.

Council Member Garcia stated that he wanted to give accolades to Ms. Susan Christianson and her office, in particular to Susan for helping move the particular item forward.

23. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contracts between the City of Houston and **TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC** and **WESTON SOLUTIONS, INC** for Environmental Assessments in support of the Brownfields Redevelopment Program - Grant Fund - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2008-0051 ADOPTED.
26. ORDINANCE finding and declaring public convenience and necessity for the acquisition of Fee Simple Title or easements for rights-of-way in connection with the public improvement project known as the Mercury Drive Paving Project, Segment 4 (from Herman Brown Park to Wallisville Road), authorizing the acquisition of certain real property interests within the right-of-way alignment and payment of the costs of such purchases and/or condemnations of such real property and associated costs for Appraisal Fees, Title Policies/Services, Recording Fees, Court Costs, and Expert Witness Fees in connection with the acquisition of Fee Simple or easements in, over, upon, under, and across 14 parcels of land situated in the Reels and Trobough Survey, Abstract No. 59, Harris County, Texas, and being more specifically situated along and abutting the east or west lines of Oates Road between U.S. Highway 90 and Wallisville Road in Houston, Harris County, Texas - **DISTRICT I - RODRIGUEZ** - was presented, and tagged by Council Member Rodriguez.
30. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing amendment to Developer Participation Contract between the City of Houston and **4468 W. AIRPORT I LTD.**, for the construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Lines to serve Section 1 of the Brentwood Village Subdivision - **DISTRICT D – ADAMS** – was presented.

After discussion by Council Members Brown and Khan, Council Member Brown stated that he would tag Item No. 30. Council Members Sullivan and Green absent.

NON CONSENT AGENDA - NUMBERS 34 and 35

MISCELLANEOUS

34. MOTION to set a date not less than seven (7) days from January 16, 2008, to receive nominations for Positions 6 and 7 of the **LAND ASSEMBLAGE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY** for terms to expire two years from appointment date – was presented. Council Members Sullivan and Green absent.

Council Member Jones moved to set January 23, 2008 to receive nominations for Positions 6 and 7 of the Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority, seconded by Council Member Garcia. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Sullivan and Green absent. MOTION 2008-0054 ADOPTED.

35. **SET A HEARING DATE** relative to proposed amendments to the Project and Financing Plan for TIRZ #16 (Uptown Zone) - **DISTRICT G – HOLM - SUGGESTED HEARING DATE - WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 23, 2008 - 9:00 A.M.** – was presented.

Council Member Holm moved to set January 23, 2008 for a hearing relative to proposed amendments to the Project and Financing Plan for TIRZ #16 (Uptown Zone), seconded by Council Member Garcia. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Sullivan and Green absent. MOTION 2008-0055 ADOPTED.

MATTERS HELD - NUMBER 36

36. MOTION by Council Member Khan/Seconded by Council Member Garcia to adopt recommendation from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$6,465,461.02 and acceptance of work on contract with **TEXAS STERLING CONSTRUCTION, INC** for Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Project, Briargrove Subdivision Phase II, WBS N-000368-0002-4 (NSR436A) - 4.78% over the original contract amount **DISTRICT G - HOLM – (This was Item 4 on Agenda of January 9, 2008, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLM)** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Sullivan and Green absent. MOTION 2008-0056 ADOPTED.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS - Council Member Holm first
MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Holm stated that she wanted to extend prayers and condolences to Ms. Kathy Lord, former Executive Director of Trees for Houston; that last night in a tragic accident her son Forrester was killed while repairing a window at his home in New York. Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Holm stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Issa Dadoush, General Services and his staff, particularly Mr. Carlos Macias, who had been the direct contact in facilitating some Council needs over the past week. Council Members Lawrence, Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Holm stated that as to the Quality of Life Committee; that some of them may have the perception that in asking the Mayor to reassign that position that it may be reactive in some way and she wanted to reassure them that it was a very positive step for her, that with two years left she really had some significant district issues that she wanted to be working on and focused on, that she wanted to and would retain her seat on the committee and she had a lot of interest in doing so. Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Holm stated that she would be spending a lot of time on some issues, one had to do with deed restrictions; that in the next few months one of the goals for their

district was to contract every neighborhood that was a deed restricted community to make sure that they could proactively address any restrictions or changes that they needed to make in order to protect the intent of their community; that she would ask Mayor White that he help the City really be supportive, to give them some help and guidance in helping their neighborhoods address proactively their needs in order to protect and maintain the integrity of their neighborhoods; that she also thought that it may be something that there may be some components of it that they were going to have to address the Legislature on in the coming session and she would like very much to be a part of that. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Holm stated that the other concern that she wanted to address were the messages that they were sending to their community, particularly in Planning; that she could not think of another example when there was not type of an appeal process for decisions that were made by a body; that until they reach perfection it concerned her that there were times that they could be making their Planning Commission on the advice of their Planning Department could be making decisions ill equipped or not having correct information and there was no way to rescind that or to change it or to go back and review the consequences, that she really believed to do that; that they had gone great distances to giving notice to their neighborhoods before a hearing but it really had not given them the capacity to have participation, she believed, appropriately, so repeatedly their citizens were coming down week after week and it could be over a six week period that they were going to have to bring people down for three times in order to question and get good information, that there had to be a better process to send out the message and include their public and both sides in it; that it had been said to her and publicly at a Planning Commission meeting, some of their neighborhoods had heard the statement that the Planning Department represents the petitioner, that she thought the Planning Department was charged with making sure the petitioner had brought the proper information forward, but the Planning Department should be representing the best interests of their community and upholding their standards and there was a difference in the message that was being perceived by indicating that their goal was to make things happen for whatever the petitioner might want, that she would recommend that sometimes what they say was not what they intended and she thought there were ways of clarifying that and to send a more positive spirit out into the community. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Mayor White asked Council Member Holm if she could get him some information about who said what, the City employees did not represent any particular member of the public and if he could get some information concerning who said what and when, and Council Member Holm stated that she was not looking to reprimand any one or to call attention to someone, that no one was intending to do something or to send that message, they were just responding, that frankly as they went into the Development Ordinance it was the perception, that she believed their perception within their departments sometimes was that their goal was to help people do what they wanted to do and that did not always reflect the best interest, while it may be a customer service intent she was hoping that really was not totally their goal as much as it was to just have an attitude and a perception that they were working to do the best for all as opposed to moving things forward, that she would be happy to discuss it later. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Holm stated that on the Development Ordinance she was receiving much information, a lot of sources were coming trying to explain good information, but once again she was concerned about the message that they were sending the public and was concerned that they were trying to fix a problem with the wrong tools, that she would like to request a meeting with some persons from within the City, that she met with the developers of the proposed Ashby High rise and at this point she needed to know what the goal of the City was, that so far the only information she had from the City was that there was a stakeholder group meeting and through a committee meeting the changes had been rolled out, but she really did not have good

information of what their goals were and what they were trying to accomplish. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Green stated that he would remove his tag on Item Numbers 13, 13a, 13b and 13c. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Noriega absent.

13. **ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to a reorganization of the functions of the Finance and Administration Department; creating a new Department of Finance and a new Department of Administration and Regulatory Affairs, abolishing the Department of Finance and Administration; authorizing the transfer of budgetary authority among certain departments and funds; redistributing authorized positions among certain departments and funds; containing other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; providing an effective date; providing for severability; and declaring an emergency – was again before Council. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Noriega absent. **ORDINANCE 2008-0052 ADOPTED.**
- 13a. **ORDINANCE** amending Exhibit “A” of City of Houston Ordinance No. 90-1292 (as amended by City of Houston Ordinance No. 2007-390), to amend the Master classification ordinance to add, revise and/or delete certain classifications substituting the amended exhibits as part of the current master classification listing; providing for severability – was again before Council. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Noriega absent. **ORDINANCE 2008-0053 ADOPTED.**
- 13b. **REQUEST** from Mayor for confirmation of the appointment of **MS. MICHELLE MITCHELL** as Director of the **FINANCE DEPARTMENT** – was again before Council, previously moved by Council Member Clutterbuck, seconded by Council Member Garcia. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Noriega absent. **MOTION 2008-0057 ADOPTED.**
- 13c. **REQUEST** from Mayor for confirmation of the appointment of **MR. ALFRED MORAN** as Director of the **ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT** – was again before Council, previously moved by Council Member Clutterbuck, seconded by Council Member Garcia. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Noriega absent. **MOTION 2008-0058 ADOPTED.**

Council Member Green stated that he wanted to congratulate Mr. Moran and Ms. Mitchell on the assumption of their new duties, that he had held it up because he did have a couple of questions as it related to the service delivery and the roll out, more so on the regulatory side, obviously that was where more on the ground, customer service was given and how they were going to let people know about the divisions; that he also had a question as it related to the career tracts of a lot of the employees who had been in that department for a while and what that meant to a person who had been in a department for 10 or 20 years or however long the department had been in place and to now have it separated into two departments with virtually people with great expertise but people from the outside in the business sector nonetheless, so that was a question that he wanted to follow up with Mr. Moran and Ms. Mitchell. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Khan stated that he too wanted to congratulate both Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Moran for the very challenging opportunity and looked forward to be working with them; that he also wanted to take the opportunity to thank Ms. Judy Johnson, who had been an outstanding public servant and had done a wonderful job. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Khan stated that they had a very successful townhall meeting with the Chief of Police who brought in many of his command staff, and also wanted to appreciate Ms. Patricia Harrington from the Mayor's Office of Anti Gang who was present and gave an overview of the services provided to the community, that he wanted to thank Mr. Michel, City Attorney, who was present and gave a briefing; that one of the things that he mentioned to the constituents was that under the agreement which they had with Carnival Night Club they were supposed to close down their operation at the old location at the end of the month, which they were doing, but there may be another business with potentially similar kind of activities coming, so they would, on behalf of all the constituents, request all his colleagues and especially the administration to see what could be done to stop that, that they really looked forward to getting some strong action by the administration to alleviate that problem; that some of the property owners wanted to be proactive and they wanted to be part of the solution so in that regard one of the buildings in that area, located at 9119 South Gessner, was holding their Tenant Building Security Meeting on Thursday, 6:30 p.m. and were inviting not only their tenants but the businesses and property owners in that area to come together and see what could be done in a positive fashion to help in crime fighting for that area. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Khan stated that there would be a Crime Stoppers Press Conference tomorrow, there was an incident on December 27, 2007 when a person was killed in a robbery of a convenience store at 6650 Belfort, that they were inviting the public to see if anybody could help solve the crime, that it would be tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at the Crime Stoppers Office at 104 North Greenwood. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Khan stated that there was a delegation from Pakistan visiting Houston, that they were here at the invitation of the Secretary of the State of Texas; that it was the Pakistan software exploratory board, that it was a fifteen member IT delegation and yesterday they were in Houston and today were in Austin and were coming back to Houston and would be visiting some other States, that part of their visit included exploring possibilities for identifying preferred destination to establish their U.S. headquarters, that he was pleased to share with them that last night at the reception one of the companies announced that they were making Houston as their headquarters. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Khan stated that on Monday they had the honor of hosting, through World Affairs Council, Doctor Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel Laureate, who got the Nobel Peace prize last year for micro credit efforts; that evening they also had an event in the Woodlands, which was also very well attended, that he hoped that people read today's Chronicle editorial in that regard. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Green stated that he wanted to alert the public regarding the Second Annual Empowerment Forum for People with Disabilities, that it was going to be held on Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi Service Center at 1475 West Gray, that it gave people information on income tax preparation and banking issues, for more information they could call their office at 713-247-2012 or the disabilities office on the City's website. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Green stated that he wanted to thank Council Member Holm for all of the work she had done for the last four years on Quality of Life Committee. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Brown stated that he wanted to second what Council Member Green stated about Council Member Holm; that he wanted to compliment the Mayor for the creation of a new Council Committee on Sustainable Growth, that he thought it sent the right and very powerful message that they wanted to turn Houston green, that he was proud to be the Chairman of that committee and have Council Member Rodriguez as the Co-Chair, that he thought they could make some major progress; that they would have a committee meeting this week on Thursday. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Brown stated that he wanted to comment briefly on the controversy surrounding the Ashby High Rise and the High Density Ordinance that they were deliberating at this point, that he had the opportunity to meet with the representatives of Houstonians for Responsible Growth; that they had a very productive and friendly meeting, that as well he conducted in the last few days two roundtable breakfasts involving 25 professionals in the development business in Houston, that he thought they needed to find a solid middle ground for moving the City forward as a quality of life city. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Khan, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Council Member Brown stated that he wanted to comment on the Buffalo Speedway construction project; that Ms. Vivian Harris came to Council complaining about the impact that it had on basically making the residential property she had unlivable, that he went out there and took pictures, that it was a County project and Harris County Flood Control District, that it was supposed to be finished last August and it was not finished yet, they were not observing the proper traffic management requirements they had in the City, they were not protecting the trees as they should, that it was a real sloppy piece of construction work, that he would hope that Mr. Gary Norman, Public Works, would go out there, that it was on both sides of Sims Bayou on Buffalo Speedway, that it was not fair to their citizens who were having difficulty getting access to their house, there was mud and dust and all sorts of other messy things, that the County was not doing a good job, that he did not know how they would deal with that. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Khan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell and Noriega absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mayor White stated that he would agree and would say there were two contacts, one, that he furnish information to Mr. Norman at the professional level, and had he talked to the County Commission, and asked whose precinct it was in, and Council Member Brown stated that it was Commission El Franco's, and Mayor White stated that he would suggest that Mr. Norman deal with his counterparts, and he would encourage Members of City Council to have some dialog with their counterparts at the County on these things. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Khan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that yesterday she represented the City of Houston at the Houston Galveston Area Council meeting, that they had spoken in the past about the efforts of Council Members who represented the City's interests on these various committees and organizations to report back and it was her hope to be able to provide a report each time after she attended; that they had a short agenda yesterday and discussed clean air updates for the region and those were significant matters, but it was reassuring to know that all of them were working very hard and diligently on achieving their Clean Air Standards in accordance with the State Implementation Plan by the various states; that additionally there were State initiatives to get old and dirty burning vehicles off the road and they had an update on that, the State had authorized a \$3,000 grant to certain families who met a certain income level and urged people to contract the Houston Galveston Area Council for that; that additionally the HGAC had a local area development corporation that provided low interest, small business loans to a variety of businesses in their region and it was interesting to learn about that; that if her colleagues had

any matters to bring to her attention for introduction into the HGAC she looked forward to receiving. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she had received some complaints about the Water Department, not just from constituents but also from people within the Water Department themselves relating to the issue of pay on line, that if they were trying to pay on line or by phone and the computer system was down the systems were both connected and everything shuts down, so from what she understood the Water Department was not happy with the situation as it stands and was exploring other opportunities that would not involve the interruption both in payment methods and service at the same time, that she was supportive of the effort and looked forward to working with the administration on that. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that the Urban Corridor Planning Process for the University Corridor would be holding a University Corridor workshop on January 30 and 31, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Saint Lukes United Methodist Church on Westheimer, that if they would like more information they could go to www.houstonplannign.com. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that many of them may have heard about the missing Rice University student who was a resident of District C, Mr. Mathew J. Wilson was a junior at Rice University and had been missing since December 14, 2007, that Crime Stoppers and Rice University were offering rewards totaling \$25,000 for information on his disappearance, that he was a 28 year old White male, 5 foot 7 inches, 135 pounds, that he had curly red hair and a mustache, that also missing was his 2004 Dodge Neon with Oklahoma license plates, that anyone with information should contact Rice University Police Department or HPD. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Eric Darden for his diligent service in working with their office to help with some right-of-way issues in the Sunnyside community. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that she wanted to say congratulations to her sorority, the Suburban Fort Bend Houston Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta for their 95 years, that they would be having their Founders Day at the Grand Plaza Hotel in the morning. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that within two days Constable May Walker had one of her employees hit on a motorcycle in a funeral procession, and they were asking the citizens that when they see a funeral procession to please pay close attention and yield to the right-of-way; that on the second day Constable David Joubert, a motorcyclist for Precinct 7 was on his way to a funeral procession on the next day and was hit and killed, that they would be having his funeral services on Friday, 12:00 p.m. at the Brentwood Baptist Church. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that the Hiram Clark community had brought to their attention in the District D office of some increase in gang presence and tagging in the Hiram Clark community, that she would like to give recognition to the Anti Gang Office for coming to

their office and meeting with them and wanted to partner with their office to provide some education workshop to the communities that were in District D to help with some of those issues with gang activity and presence in the community and how to recognize crime and the type of gangs that were in the area so she would like to thank them for their continued partnership of service for the District D community. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that last night her office had the opportunity to attend the River Oaks Place Civic Association and they brought to their attention to handle some of the noise nuisances with some of the businesses that surround their condos, that they would try to help the River Oaks Place Civic Association with some of their noise nuisances, that HPD had already been notified and they would try to help them rectify the issues that were occurring in the River Oaks Place Civic Association. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that as to Council Member Brown's earlier comment concerning the County project on Buffalo Speedway, their office met with Ms. Vivian Harris and they made contact with Harris County to inform them of her issues and they also scheduled an appointment with her to go before Commissioner's Court and she went before the Commission's Court last Tuesday, so they were working out those issues which were occurring with her property and Buffalo Speedway, so the District D office was on top of that, and she wanted to make the community aware of that. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that she was learning the process, like her colleague Council Member Rodriguez, to pay very close attention to the agenda items because they go really fast and she missed a couple of things that she wanted to make note of and she wanted to congratulate Nathleen Kennedy and Associates on one of her designs in the District D area and for the contractor who was given the award they had a goal for MWBE of 17% and their actual goal for MWBE was 13.78%, and also on Item No. 28 she wanted to congratulate Civil Tech Engineering, Inc. for the design of the water/sewer and their goal was 24% for MWBE and they went over the goal at 25.32%. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Jones stated that she wanted to ditto what Council Member Holm stated, they really needed to pay attention to and they as Council Members should go out to the neighborhoods because there really was a delicate balance, that she thought that ordinary people in neighborhoods were working and did not always have the time to come to Council, so they did not have the City's ear, so she thought it was very important that they find some mechanism to be able to gage citizens concerns; that to that end she was challenging fellow Houstonians, people who lived in neighborhoods, to be proactive in protecting their neighborhoods, that while driving through their neighborhoods if they see the signs that say "notice of request for variance" to please stop and write down all the relative information and either call the City Planning Department or her office, City Council At Large, because she wanted to make sure to try to balance developers with the neighborhoods. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Adams, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Jones stated that she wanted to ditto what Council Member Adams spoke about and that was to please respect funeral processions, not just to protect the families but also to protect the law enforcement because they provide a very valuable service. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Adams, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Jones stated that she wanted to bring up SHAPE Community Center, that she happened to be a product of SHAPE and they were doing wonderful things, that along with making the City greener they needed to make the City healthier and SHPAE Community Center had a fruit and vegetable co-op which would be on Saturday at 3815 Live Oak, there was fresh produce at \$35 for fruit and vegetables, that there was also education about how to be healthy. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Adams, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Jones stated that she wanted to celebrate the centennial of her sorority, Alpa Kappa Alpa, that they had their 100th anniversary yesterday, January 15, 2008, that she encouraged everyone to come to any festivities they were going to have, that they were the first Black Greek organization for women and it was founded at a time when Black women did not go to college at high rates, that it was difficult and there was not a lot of support, that they had gone on to do great things and were now international; that their festivities would be celebrated in Washington, D.C. in the summer and Mattel was making a Barbie doll for them and Delta Airlines was paying the plane for them. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Adams, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 12:10 p.m. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Adams, Sullivan, Holm, Garcia, Brown, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

DETAILED INFORMATION ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY.

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

/S/Anna Russell

Anna Russell, City Secretary