

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Tuesday, January 6, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 6, 2009, 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, James G. Rodriguez, Sue Lovell, Melissa Noriega, Ronald C. Green and Jolanda "Jo" Jones; Mr. Anthony Hall, Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office; Mr. Harlan Heilman, Division Chief, Claims & Subrogation Division, Legal Department; Ms. Claudia Vasquez, Director Citizens Assistance; Ms. Debra Dillard, Citizens Assistance Office; and Ms. Marty Stein Agenda Director present. Council Member Peter Brown out of the city on city business.

Note: Council Member, District H Position, vacant.

At 2:12 p.m. Mayor White called the meeting to order and stated that Council Member Holm would begin presentations. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Adams, Rodriguez, Noriega and Green absent.

Council Member Holm invited Mr. Bert Long to the podium and stated there were really good projects and people in Houston and none finer than the Looscan Library and the new piece of art placed in the children's portion by artist Bert Long; that the painting "Art/ Life" was installed and painted by the award winning artist Bert L. Long and it depicted a ship sailing toward the sunset; that his work had been reviewed in more than 120 periodicals and included in 18 permanent collections in America and abroad, saluted him and wished him continued success; and presented him a Proclamation proclaiming today as "Bert Long Day" in Houston, Texas. Council Members Lawrence, Adams, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Mr. Long stated that it was an honor to be present with all the Council Members and Mayor and thanked all for the recognition. Council Members Lawrence, Adams, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Council Members thanked Mr. Long for his beautiful art work, his contribution to Houston and stated that it was a pleasure to honor him. Council Member Noriega absent.

Council Member Noriega invited Mr. Bill Coats to the podium and stated that Mr. William "Bill" Coats was a director, member of executive committee and head of Construction Surety Section of Coats, Rose, Yale, Ryman and Lee, PC, and had over 25 years as an attorney and handled all aspects of construction contracts, etc., and what the City of Houston was so proud of was he selflessly committed his time and expertise to the City of Houston public safety radio contract and they thanked him for all his work; and presented him a Proclamation proclaiming today as "Bill Coats Day" in Houston, Texas. Council Member Johnson absent.

Mr. Coats stated that this was a surprise he thought he was coming for another meeting on the contract; that he did not need a Proclamation, but it was an honor to be asked by the Mayor for help though he was not the only lawyer to volunteer for this Mayor, but he would continue to do so and happy to be present. Council Member Johnson absent.

Mayor White stated that he and Mr. Coats agreed and disagreed on things and he was someone who truly loved Houston and when he offered to use his extensive experience in reforming contract procedures, etc., he charged zero; and thanked him for going above and beyond in his public service. Council Members Lawrence and Johnson absent.

Council Members thanked Mr. Coats for being a wonderful example and helping to improve the quality of life for all citizens in Houston through his projects. Council Member Lawrence absent.

Council Member Johnson invited Dr. T. F. Freeman to the podium and stated that it was his pleasure to introduce a legend and pillar of the community; that Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman had been Pastor of Mt. Horem Baptist Church since 1951 and was professor of Forensics at Texas Southern University, TSU Debate Team Coach and today they were honoring his 60 years of service to TSU; that he was world renowned with TSU debates as they had taken many first prizes and presented him a Proclamation proclaiming today as "Dr. Thomas F. Freeman Day" in Houston, Texas. Council Member Lawrence absent.

Dr. Freeman thanked Council Member Johnson and all joining him in making this recognition today, in honoring him and others today they had recognized those at home and he shared this honor with them and with his wife, son and three bosses present from the university; and thanked all for this recognition. Council Member Lawrence absent.

Council Members thanked Dr. Freeman for trailblazing the way for many others and for his commitment and dedication at Texas Southern University. Council Member Noriega absent.

At 2:49 p.m. Council Member Sullivan led all in prayer and the pledge. Council Member Noriega absent.

At 2:50 p.m. the City Secretary called the roll. Council Member Brown out of the city on city business.

Council Members Khan and Green moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Brown out of the city on city business. MOTION ADOPTED.

At 2:51 p.m. the City Secretary began calling the public speakers. Council Members Holm and Lovell absent.

Ms. Leticia Castillo, 5621 Harper Forest, Houston, Texas 77088 (832-443-5840) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Clutterbuck, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Mr. Earl Pratt, 200 Hollow Tree, Houston, Texas 77090 (281-880-8695) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Johnson, Clutterbuck, Holm, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Mr. Michael Gibson, 6710 Hoffman, Houston, Texas 77028 (713-631-1474) appeared and stated that he was present regarding his ditch being graded, he asked that it not be cut but just grade the side and the operator said okay, but the supervisor came back and told him to cut it, he had to take care of it and should have some say; that there was no standing water there, he lived in Trinity Gardens and they had not flooded in years and now his house looked ugly with the ditch graded crooked; that his second concern was his community, going over the Lockwood Bridge and looking to the left there were weeds, only the median was ever cut and why was the gate in front of the park closed, it had been closed about three years now and they needed bigger cover holes for water flow and he was present before about the 6700 block and there was a trail on the city map that should say Cooper. Council Members Johnson, Holm and Noriega absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated that he was the first to come say he did not want his ditch cut; and upon questions, Mr. Gibson stated that they cleaned it with a backhoe. Council Members Johnson, Holm and Noriega absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Jones, Mr. Gibson stated that to the left of the Lockwood Bridge there were two feet tall weeds and if the city kept the median clean why not keep that clean and at Trinity Garden Park he would like rough concrete so when basketball was played the kids would not be sliding. Council Members Johnson and Noriega absent.

Mayor White stated that he had the photos of the lot; and upon questions, Mr. Gibson stated that the lot he spoke of was two houses down from him and Council Member Johnson had it cut two years ago and it should be kept clean; and Mayor White stated that the City of Houston foreclosed on a number of the long-term tax delinquent lots and the one right across which had a fair amount of weeds and trees was one the city took back and they were looking for someone to buy the lot at a good price and preferably to build a house. Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Khan and Noriega absent.

Mr. Dale Steffes, 12510 Carriage Hill Drive, Houston, Texas 77077 (281-497-2197) appeared and stated that he was asking the City of Houston to discontinue funding the Greater Houston Partnership with Houston's tax money; that they would never know how great the City of Houston might have become without the Greater Houston Partnership's hindrance over he past 20 years; that his issue was energy and he would remind the Mayor he was handed a copy of the proposed energy policy the day President Clinton took office in January 1993, 16 years ago, he became the Deputy Secretary of Energy and today the nation was about 30% dependent on foreign energy and if the policy had been implemented by the Clinton Administration the U. S. would have been about half that dependent; and today was asking that the Mayor forward the policy which was written in a new book he published to his colleague Carol Browner, the former EPA Administrator under President Clinton, the book summarized the policy; and presented a copy to Ms. Dillard to be presented to Mayor White for Ms. Browner. Council Members Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Khan and Noriega absent.

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. Council Members Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Khan and Noriega absent.

Ms. Akua Fayette, 5934 South Loop, Houston, Texas 77033 (281-830-7002) appeared and stated that she lived in what she felt was a forgotten community, the South Park area, that she wanted a cleanup, she had bought a lawn mower and rakes and got people to clean an area she wanted for the community, but after the cleanup it was turned into a Walgreens; that Martin Luther King Boulevard was a street which was not just here but around the United States and the street was known for drugs, people who did not care, poverty and many other negative things and it was unfair to him and his legacy and she had asked the City of Houston for help, she asked Council Member Adams and her group and her long projection was one day something would be on this street everywhere speaking something positive. Council Members Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Khan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Adams thanked Ms. Fayette for her commitment and dedication and stated that she was correct; that also there was a carwash on the corner of MLK and they would be taking a picture and showing it to the Mayor, it was one of the biggest eyesores and she wanted to see what could be done and she and others would be there to support her. Council Members Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan and Khan absent.

Mayor White stated that she was taking responsibility and challenging others to do the same thing and that was where change started. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan and Khan absent.

Council Member Jones stated that Sister Akua did much more than trying to clean Martin Luther King, she did a lot at a community level and South Park in previous years was a

self-sustaining community and that was where people wanted to live and the carwash Council Member Adams spoke of held a lot of criminal activity and she would like to see it as it once was. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Adams, Sullivan and Khan absent.

Mayor White stated that if there was a carwash frequented by crime and the owner did not take an interest then sometimes he wondered why first they did not call the owner and then set aside time in meetings for a different type of presentation than just honoring citizens, a presentation you would not want to be at; and Ms. Fayette stated that businesses would be helping her and they would have an award for best designed yard and most improved and she would like to meet and speak with Mayor White on changing the image of Martin Luther King Boulevard. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Ms. Shantell Thomas (previously registered on November 18, 2008 as Ms. Shantell Robinson), no address (713-283-4161) appeared and stated that she was again present as she was still homeless and those who said they would be held accountable and investigate the situation, Council Members Adams and Jones, did not, she wanted the Mayor to see what could be done, she and her child wanted a place to live; that procedure and protocol were not followed. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Clutterbuck and Sullivan absent.

Council Member Jones stated that she had a two inch thick file with emails, etc., to Ms. Thomas and it had been investigated with the Housing Authority and they did try to help her, they may not have been resolved as she wanted, but she did not supply things to her office as asked, but if she would like a copy of the file she would give it to her; and Ms. Thomas stated that she was the one who gave her the file, she had not done anything. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Mr. James Patsch Galvan, 1611 Holman, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-528-2607) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Mr. William Beal, 4718 Boicewood, Houston, Texas 77016 (713-633-0126) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Ms. Mary Taylor, 1403 Fashion Hill Drive, Houston, Texas 77088 (281-445-0682) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson and Sullivan absent.

President Joseph Charles, P. O. Box 524373, Houston, Texas 77052-4373 (832-407-5344) appeared and stated that he should be allowed more time and he was being assassinated by the Global Mafia terrorist organization and must include the City Council Chambers; and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson and Sullivan absent.

At 3:22 p.m. City Council recessed until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Council Member Brown out of the city on city business. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson and Sullivan absent.

The Houston City Council reconvened at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 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, James G. Rodriguez, Peter Brown, Sue Lovell, Melissa Noriega, Ronald C. Green and Jolanda "Jo" Jones; Mr. Anthony Hall, Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office; Mr. Arturo Michel, City Attorney; Ms. Martha Stein, Agenda Director and Ms. Marta Crinejo,

Assistant Agenda Director, present.

Note: Council Member, District H Position, vacant.

At 8:33 a.m. the City Secretary read the descriptions or captions of items on the Agenda.

At 9:33 a.m. Mayor White called the meeting to order and recognized Council Member Green for a special recognition, and then Council Member Clutterbuck who had a motion to take something out of order. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Khan, Holm, Rodriguez and Lovell absent.

Council Member Green stated that they were pleased to have the Texas Legislative Internship Program with them today, that obviously many of them had interns with the program, that over the last five years he had at least four interns, three of which still worked in his office and asked that all the members of the program please stand and be recognized. Council Members Johnson, Khan, Holm, Rodriguez and Lovell absent.

Mayor White stated that every year among those who were interns there were people who five, ten or fifteen years later turned out to be great leaders within their community that were well known, probably more than any they knew, that it had been a model for an internship program that they initiated a Summer Internship Program with the City and he was wondering which of them was going to be the next Senator, Congressman, Mayor or do things a lot more important and he wanted to thank them for being present; and Council Member Green stated that they switch off every other year, that one year they were in their offices at the City level and this year it was the legislative session so they would all be disbursed throughout the Capital. Council Members Lawrence, Khan, Holm, Rodriguez and Lovell absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck moved to suspend the rules to hear the Mayor's Report out of order, seconded by Council Member Green. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Lawrence, Khan and Holm absent. MOTION 2009-0001 ADOPTED.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Transitioning Housing Voucher Rental Recipients to Homeownership
by Alyson Griffin

Mayor White stated that it was his pleasure to introduce some folks who would talk about one of the great success stories of Houston, that it was also something that had support of employees of the City's Department of Housing and Community Development, in particular their leader for the mortgage programs, Mr. Juan Chavez, who had done a wonderful job, and the Houston Housing Authority, that in fairness it was at the initiative of a citizen who came up to him at a meeting and she was persistent in bending his ear to tell him that the City of Houston was missing an opportunity to give people more dignity and respect and independence by home ownership to those who were renters, that his challenge to her was if he backed her up would she invest a lot of time and she had, that he wanted her to tell them the story and introduce Ms. Allyson Griffin, Cornerstone Mortgage.

Ms. Griffin stated that one year ago she posed to Mayor White his thoughts and ideas on transitioning housing voucher rental recipients to home ownership and after a few summers he asked what kind of experience she had and introduced her to Mr. Juan Chavez, Housing Department, and here they sat today with 7 closed loans, through November, and about 30 people in backlog who were working towards home ownership. Ms. Griffin, Mr. Chavez and Mr. Jerome Pemberton, Cornerstone Mortgage, reviewed the "Transitioning Housing Voucher Recipients to Homeownership" PowerPoint presentation of which a copy had been distributed to Council Members and a copy of which is in the City Secretary's Office for review.

Mayor White and Members of Council thanked Ms. Griffin, Mr. Chavez and Mr. Pemberton for their presentation. Council Members Lovell and Noriega absent.

After discussion, Council Member Jones stated that she thought the most important thing was if they could do something to let people know, that she thought there should be some advertising that talked about housing because when people were on housing they did not think they could ever own a house; that she would hold a hearing in seven months to see if they had knocked or knocked the wall to the barriers that had been hindering them. Council Members Johnson, Adams and Noriega absent.

After further discussion Council Member Lovell stated that she thought the most important thing was that they needed to get with the Houston Association of Realtors and really educate them about this program and asked if they on their website could they put up a special category of homes within the price range of which they could get a loan and then bring in and really educate the realtors about the process, get them on the vendors list and give them all the assistance they needed and then match them with the people who know how to give them mortgages, and Mayor White stated that if Council Member Lovell and some other Council Members would consider hosting something on HAR leadership they really wanted the word to get out to their membership, they could set up the George R. Brown Convention Center. Council Members Adams, Holm and Noriega absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Brown, Mr. Chavez stated that yes they were talking about new construction housing and used housing, that in the City of Houston they had, with the voucher assistance, they had closed 7 year to day and were working on a backlog, that they had their first closing in April, and Mr. Chavez stated that one of the eye openers that they had in one of the first meeting with the Houston Housing Authority was that of the large numbers that Alyson was quoting a whole ago, 15,000 in the Houston Housing Authority, there was a program that was known as the Self Sufficiency Program and there were approximately 2,500 folks in that program, that it was designed to help folks work their way to become self sufficient and obviously one of the endeavors was to become home owners, that there was approximately 500 families within that 2,500 group that were at the door to become home owners and at this moment that was the area that he and Alyson were working very hard to have the Houston Housing Authority work with them and help that group become home owners as quickly as possible; and Council Member Brown asked how much funding annually was available for the housing assistance in the City of Houston, and Mr. Chavez stated that last year they projected about \$5.5 million and actually they spent about \$7.6 million, that they introduced a couple of programs, one was the "Work Force Down Payment Assistance Program", so they had an increase in funding but in total they spent right at about \$7.6 million, that they thought that this coming year, with introduction of other programs, they probably would be needing a little more money and they would introduce it to City Council in the near future. Council Members Holm, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Council Member Green asked if Ms. Griffin could do a little research for him, if a person was off of the vouchers for two years and their circumstances changed what guarantee did the government and the City have that the mortgage would be paid or did they fall into a category of just a home a regular home owner who had over extended themselves, and Mr. Chavez stated that he would look into it, and Mr. Pemberton stated that once the client was off of the voucher, and after the probationary period, they were responsible for the total payment, when a client was purchasing a home they were making sure that the client, with HUD guidelines, could afford the home they were purchasing, but when they were off of the program, and if he was understanding Council Member Green's question correctly, they were responsible for that payment, they were totally off of the program after the probationary period, and Council Member Green asked if the government's protection expired, and Mr. Pemberton stated yes, and Council Member Green asked if once they were off of the program the government was off of the hook

for the guarantee of the loan, and Mr. Pemberton stated correct, and Mr. Chavez stated that it was always an FHA loan, that he would get a report for him, and Mayor White stated that people who went through the program went through a vigorous home buyer education program. Council Members Khan and Noriega absent.

Upon further discussion and questions, Mr. Chavez stated that part of the conditions of the terms of the agreements of the grant was that they monitor the home owner for the term of the period, whether it be five or ten years, to insure that they stay in the house as their primary residence, that was one of the ways that they were still in the house and maintaining their mortgage payments; that if there was a danger of default status then because they were a secondary lien holder the primary mortgage company would notify them; that the educational plan, which was called "post purchase counseling" was being carried out by numerous counseling agencies, however they were pushing forward for some specific criteria that they would like to implement into the program and that was something they would be doing the coming year. Council Members Lawrence, Johnson, Holm, Brown, Lovell, Noriega and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

After further discussion Mayor White thanked Ms. Griffin, Mr. Chavez and Mr. Pemberton and everybody for appearing on the panel, that it had been very helpful and to continue the good work, that they would follow up in six months and see what progress had been made in overcoming obstacles. Council Members Rodriguez and Green absent.

At 10:38 Council Member Khan moved to consider the Consent Agenda at this time, seconded by Council Member Clutterbuck. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell, Green and Jones absent. MOTION 2009-0002 ADOPTED.

Council Member Holm stated that she wanted to wish former Council Member Ada Edwards a happy birthday. Council Members Johnson, Lovell, Green and Jones absent.

CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 16

PROPERTY - NUMBER 1

1. RECOMMENDATION from Director General Services that City Council declare surplus Parcels SY9-004, Kendall St. at Lovejoy (part of Former Milby Bus Barn Site), SY5-031, 330 Courtlandt (Former Lift Station Site) and SY8-064, 12914 Hempstead Hwy (Former Maintenance Facility Site) - **DISTRICTS A - LAWRENCE and H** – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Clutterbuck. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell, Green and Jones absent. MOTION 2009-0003 ADOPTED.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS - NUMBERS 3 and 3a

3. ORDINANCE appropriating \$160,789.10 out of Equipment Acquisition Consolidated Fund for the purchase of Earth Moving Equipment for Public Works & Engineering Department - \$1,538,385.90 Stormwater & Enterprise Funds – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0001 ADOPTED.
- 3a. **RUSH EQUIPMENT CENTERS OF TEXAS, INC** - \$1,490,282.00 and **JOHN DEERE CONSTRUCTION RENTAL AND SALES** - \$208,893.00 for Earth Moving Equipment through the Interlocal Agreements for Cooperative Purchasing with Houston-Galveston Area Council and BuyBoard for the Public Works & Engineering Department – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Holm. All

voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent. MOTION 2009-0004 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 5 through 16

5. ORDINANCE **AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to parking – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0002 ADOPTED.
6. ORDINANCE relating to the Retail Electric Rates of **ENTERGY TEXAS, INC** within the City of Houston, Texas; approving a rate decrease to Entergy Texas, Inc.'s Rates; making findings and containing other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; containing a repealer; providing for severability – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0003 ADOPTED.
8. ORDINANCE approving License Agreement between the City of Houston, Texas and **TERRY MCDONALD**, as licensee, for use of 43.35 acres of land adjacent to George Bush Intercontinental Airport – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0004 ADOPTED.
9. ORDINANCE approving first amendment to Grant Agreement between the City and **WILLIAM A. LAWSON INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY** for a fifty (50) unit elderly housing apartment complex located at 5220 Scott Street; appropriating \$1,200,000 out of the TIRZ Affordable Housing Fund (Fund 2409) in connection therewith - **DISTRICT D – ADAMS** – had not been received, and the City Secretary announced it would be considered at the end of the Agenda if received during the meeting. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent.
12. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2004-1141 to increase the maximum contract amount for contract between the City of Houston and **SCOTT TECHNOLOGIES, INC d/b/a SCOTT HEALTH & SAFETY** for EZ Comm Fireground Communication Equipment for the Houston Fire Department \$289,013.13 - General Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0005 ADOPTED.
13. ORDINANCE appropriating \$8,154,444.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund to reimburse the General Fund for the Rehabilitation of Concrete Pavements – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0006 ADOPTED.
14. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2005-1318 to increase the maximum contract amount; approving and authorizing first amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES, INC** for Concrete Pavement Repair Services for the Public Works & Engineering Department - \$1,563,127.50 - General Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0007 ADOPTED.
16. ORDINANCE appropriating \$2,209,700.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund, awarding contract to **MCKINNEY CONSTRUCTION, INC** for Waterline Replacement in Croyden Gardens Northeast Area, setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance, and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for engineering, testing, project management, and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated

Construction Fund - **DISTRICT H** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Lovell and Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0008 ADOPTED.

Mayor White stated that they would move to the Monthly Financial Report and recognized Ms. Annise Parker, City Controller and Ms. Michele Mitchell, Director of Finance.

9:00 A.M. - REPORT FROM CITY CONTROLLER AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE CITY including but not limited to, a revenue, expenditure and encumbrance report for the General Fund, all special revenue funds and all enterprise funds, and a report on the status of bond funds – was called.

Ms. Parker and Ms. Mitchell reviewed the Monthly Operations and Financial Report, a copy of which is on file in the City Secretary's Office for review. Council Members Johnson, Lawrence and Green absent.

Council Member Sullivan stated that with respect to the hotel note was there any kind of prepayment benefit by delivering the lump sum check to the pension, and Mayor White stated yes, a lower interest rate, that it was a benefit to refinancing and they were glad it was done. Council Members Lawrence and Green absent.

Council Member Khan stated that when they talked about the negative \$200 million in the SWAPS that was only if they reversed the SWAPS, if they went through the life of the underlying assets there was no negative they were looking at, and Ms. Parker stated that was correct, and Council Member Khan stated that right now based on the current market conditions they did not anticipate reversing those SWAPS and Ms. Parker stated no; and Council Member Khan stated that Ms. Mitchell had presented a very good five year plan for the revenues and expenditures and he asked that as they were going to the new budget cycle and seeing the economic changes overall and affecting the Houston area, what were the Mayor's direction to the departments as far as their new budget numbers were concerned, and Ms. Mitchell stated that they should have gotten a corrected sheet, that it was sent to them, and Mayor White stated that Council Member Khan was right, that the budget cycle was going to require more tightening of the belt and budget disciplines for their various departments, including the public safety departments and was something that they were very aware of, and Ms. Mitchell stated that she mentioned that it was ongoing and they continued to ask departments, in their Directors meetings with the Mayor, to look at areas of which they could save and also looking at possibly going flattening out of contracts, that it was flexible and they continued to look at it. Council Members Johnson, Noriega and Green absent.

Council Member Lovell stated that she knew that the Sales Tax Revenue probably for the holiday season was down for the quarter and asked if they had any sort of idea of how much was lost, how far down it was or any projection on that and Ms. Mitchell stated that they did not have it, that the news reports, that she was sure they had all looked at, had not been favorable to the sales tax or the sales in the stores, that she thought it was probably going to be lower than she was anticipating that it was going to be but she did not have an answer, and Council Member Lovell asked when would that be reflected in their budget, and Ms. Mitchell stated that they did not usually get those until February. Council Members Johnson, Holm, Noriega and Green absent.

Council Member Lawrence asked Ms. Parker what arrangements had been made or were they back with the full finance on their Rainy Day Fund, and Ms. Parker stated no, and the commitment from the administration was that it would be refunded but she would defer that to Ms. Mitchell, and Ms. Mitchell stated that once they got the funding in from FEMA on all outstanding indebtedness then the balance would go back to the Rainy Day Fund. Council Members Johnson, Holm, Noriega and Green absent.

Mayor White stated that the thing that would be on the critical path of that was the following, they had submitted project worksheets which had been audited by a FEMA adjuster, that FEMA had disbursed the money to the State of Texas, and so long as the State of Texas, on the money that they had receipts, withheld money then it would be a longer time before they replenished the Rainy Day Fund and this was something that they needed to work together on and anyone who talked to any member in State government ought to urge that they get this amount to the City of Houston so they could replenish this fund; and he thanked the Controller and the Director of F&A for their report. Council Members Johnson, Holm, Noriega and Green absent.

Council Member Lovell moved to accept the Monthly Financial Report, seconded by Council Member Clutterbuck. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Holm, Noriega and Green absent. MOTION 2009-0005 ADOPTED.

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she wanted to add her thanks to the Controller and the Director of Finance, that they provided them with an outstanding presentation yesterday at the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting, as did Mr. Craig Mason and Mr. Arturo Michel, City Attorney, and Ms. Ann Travis. Council Member Green absent.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS

2. ORDINANCE appropriating \$300,000.00 out of Equipment Acquisition Consolidated Fund for Purchase of Citywide Cisco Smartnet Maintenance Agreement for the Information Technology Department - \$1,400,146.00 - Central Service Revolving Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0009 ADOPTED.
- 2a. **INX, INC** for Citywide Cisco Smartnet Maintenance Agreement through the City's Master Agreement with the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) for the Information Technology Department – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Lovell. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Green absent. MOTION 2009-0006 ADOPTED.
4. **SCL A-1 PLASTICS, LTD** (Bid No.1) for Household Recycling Containers for the Solid Waste Management Department - \$622,125.00 - General Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Lovell. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Green absent. MOTION 2009-0007 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES

7. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City and **JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.** to provide online payment services for the processing of permits for the Administration & Regulatory Affairs Department – was presented. Council Member Green absent.

After discussion by Council Members, Mayor White stated that he encouraged Mr. Moran, as was done within the private sector, to have somebody after a blank period of time, working with the Public Works Water and Sewer System, do a customer survey that was statistically significant, 500 or 600 people, to figure out what their degree of familiarity with the program was, why they did or did not participate and then what they do in trying to encourage or marketing, that they wanted to get the participation up so that they could put more money in

services and less money in people opening check stubs and entering in data entry; and how could they get the billing and collection fees down and billing and collection up, that he did not know how many people paid on line by credit card at Municipal Court, that they were going to get that, but where were they now and what should their goal be, the same thing with the water and sewer system, that it would be worth taking a look at the budget books and how many FTEs and the like were involved in the water and sewer billing and collection systems as a percentage of revenues and what was their goal. Council Members Sullivan and Green absent.

After further discussion, Council Member Holm stated that she would like them to look at and encourage, they had so many programs that sustained themselves through their fees and she would love to be able to see their collections go more into a General Fund so that their departments then stood on budgeted programming so that it was a lot more clarity of what the cost of operation and business was, so she really thought that by centralizing the collections that was a major step to budget appropriately so that their citizens really knew what it cost to manage and run a really good program.

Mayor White stated that he supported it, but on the billing and collection, that as of two years ago when he had done some market and research almost all of the banks outsourced this stuff, that he would vote for this, that it was good, but it may be that given the collapse of some financial institutions, there were two or three vendors, one that had a big market share, the industry was consolidated and people really probed as to what software was being used and who was doing it, that these people responded to their competitor proposal, that if they did some security research there was a firm that provided most of these services for banks that they repackaged and sell to their customers, that they wanted to go as far back to the vendor as they could.

A vote was called on Item No. 7. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0010 ADOPTED.

10. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the submittal of an application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control for the City's Immunization Field and Program Services (The "Grant"); declaring the city's eligibility for such grant; authorizing the Director of the Health and Human Services Department to act as the City's representative in the application process; authorizing the Director of Health and Human Services Department to accept the grant and expend the grant funds, if awarded, and to apply for and accept all subsequent awards, if any, pertaining to the grant - one year - \$3,110,577.00 - Grant Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0011 ADOPTED.
11. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Contribution Agreement and an Operating Agreement between the City of Houston, **MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL URBAN YOUTH FOUNDATION** and the **HOUSTON ASTROS** for a Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy at Sylvester Turner Park - **DISTRICT A - LAWRENCE** – was presented. Council Member Noriega absent.

After discussion by Council Members, a vote was called on Item No. 11. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0012 ADOPTED.

15. ORDINANCE appropriating \$216,261.00 out of General Improvements Consolidated Construction Fund and awarding construction contract to **ARROW SERVICES, INC** for Asbestos Abatement, Interior Demolition and Build Back at City of Houston Municipal Courts IT Renovation Project, setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for project

management, construction oversight and air monitoring services and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the General Improvements Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT H** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Green absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0013 ADOPTED.

NON CONSENT AGENDA - NUMBERS 17 and 18

MISCELLANEOUS

17. MOTION to set a date not less than seven (7) days from January 7, 2009, to receive nominations for appointments or reappointments for Positions Four and Six on the **ETHICS COMMITTEE**, with two-year staggered terms – was presented.

Council Member Khan moved to set January 14, 2009 to receive nominations for appointments or reappointments for Positions Four and Six on the **ETHICS COMMITTEE**, seconded by Council Member Lovell. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2009-0008 ADOPTED.

18. MOTION to set a date not less than seven (7) days from January 7, 2009, to receive nominations for Positions One, Two and Two Alternate At-Large Positions of the **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, for one-year terms to expire December 31, 2009 - was presented. Council Member Holm absent.

Council Member Khan moved to set January 14, 2009 to receive nominations for Positions One, Two and Two Alternate At-Large Positions of the **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, seconded by Council Member Lovell. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Holm absent. MOTION 2009-0009 ADOPTED.

Item received during meeting.

9. ORDINANCE approving first amendment to Grant Agreement between the City and **WILLIAM A. LAWSON INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY** for a fifty (50) unit elderly housing apartment complex located at 5220 Scott Street; appropriating \$1,200,000 out of the TIRZ Affordable Housing Fund (Fund 2409) in connection therewith - **DISTRICT D – ADAMS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson, Holm and Brown absent. ORDINANCE 2009-0014 ADOPTED.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Green stated that he wanted to thank his colleagues for thanking him along with Terence Fontaine, Issa Dadoush and former Council Member Carol Alvarado for all of their well wishes for receiving their MBAs, but he remembered that there were two other City employees who were going through the same process, Mr. Joe Turner, Director, as well as his staff member Mr. Dan Peterson, that they were working on their MBAs and in fact graduated about a month before so he wanted to congratulate Joe and Dan for all of their hard work; that he wish everybody a Happy New Year; that one of his neighbors sent him an email letting them know that with their Houston Public Library Power Card it would admit any child under the age of eighteen free to the Museum of Fine Arts on Saturday's and Sunday's, that it was a great way to check out the museum and look at all of the great treasures they had and would encourage his colleagues to encourage individuals and let people know, that it was a program that was inspired by Mayor Brown a few years ago, but the grant was made possible from the Lila Wallace Readers Digest Foundation. Council Members Johnson and Jones absent.

Council Member Brown stated that he wanted to wish Council Member Green a Happy New

Year and all of his colleagues, the Mayor and all of the wonderful residents of the City of Houston and hoped that it would be a prosperous and very enjoyable new year, they were working hard at the City to make it so; that he wanted to bring New Year's greetings to Mayor White and his fellow Council Members from Mayor Christian Estrosi of Nice, France and his Deputy Mayor Rudy Saul, that they were planning a trip to Houston and there would be a delegation from Nice coming in mid March 2009; that Mayor White and Council Member Khan had been very aggressive in extending a hand on the part of the City of Houston to other cities around the world and promoting business, that he thought one of the great opportunities for the City of Houston was more and more international business and it was not going to happen if they sat on their thumbs, it was going to happen if they tried to introduce the private sector in Houston that wanted to do business around the world to those businessmen, whether in France, Milan or China, who wanted to come to Houston and do business; that there was some good news about crime in Houston that had not been said before, that he wanted everyone to know that they had done a good job, the Police Chief and Mayor, in winning the battle against crime, that it was not over yet but total crime was down, that the murder rate was down 11% and overall, property and violent crimes, were down 6%; that he wanted to say something about airport travel, that a lot of cities, their character and image, was defined by the experience they had at the international airports and he had a chance to go once again through the international terminal and customs and it was terrific and world class, that he wanted to pay tribute to Rob Mason, an airport supervisor who brought in during the holidays his karaoke machine and dressed in a tuxedo, entertained the crowds jammed into Bush Airport during the holidays and that was a great thing that exemplified the spirit of Houston. Council Members Johnson, Rodriguez, Green and Jones absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that following up on the reduction of crime that they had seen in the City, specifically the reduction in murders, she thought it was a good time to renew their pledge to fight graffiti in their City, that it seemed to pop up every now and then, that she knew that Chief Edwards was working on that but they knew that sometimes efforts of eliminating and abating graffiti in a prompt manner were what restored a sense of confidence in their citizens and the sense of security, but also helped reduce crime overall, that she had been having a number of conversations, via email, with Chief Edwards and would like to express their intent and commitment as a body to do all they could to help her in her job to reduce graffiti, that it was all over District C and anything she could do to abate that would be tremendously appreciated, that she thought if they could approach the new year with the administration's encouragement of Chief Edwards and providing her with whatever resources were necessary to help with that it would be greatly appreciated and they would have ramifications all the way down the law from improving the sense of security as well as reducing crime; that she would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year; that they had a wonderful representation of two of their schools of higher learning in representing the City of Houston and doing Texas proud, that Rice against Western Michigan was an outstanding game, that the University of Houston, at the Armed Forces Bowl, the Air Force lost 28 to 34 to the University of Houston, that she wanted to congratulate the Rice Owls and the Houston Cougars. Council Members Johnson, Green and Jones absent.

Council Member Noriega stated that she wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year; that she wanted to mention that if they lived in the Heights or the Near Northside or anywhere in District H there was still an office there with staff that was answering the phone, that they could always call any of the At-Large offices if they needed assistance, but they could also call District H, that they were still getting things done and taking care of business in that part of town; that Reagan Lodge Masons were having a blood drive as part of the January Commit for Life Project, the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, www.giveblood.org had a contest and people were sharing why they had committed for life to give blood, that it was on January 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Reagan Lodge No. 1037, 1606 Heights Boulevard; that the East End Little League was starting their Spring registration, they started the 3rd and 4th of January

and were going to have registration every weekend in the month of January from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday's and on Sunday's from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., that they needed to bring the birth certificate of the player, registration fees and three proofs of address, that the little league's number was 713-702-6923; that they had the First Saturday Yale Street Art Market at 548 West 19th Street, that it was a special exercise to eat right and buy art, that it was at 11:00 a.m.; that they had choral auditions for the Houston Choral Showcase on Monday, January 12, 2009 or on January 19, 2009 at the Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp Street, Houston, Texas. Council Members Johnson, Brown, Green and Jones absent.

Council Member Adams stated that on Item No. 9 she wanted to congratulate them so that those monies could be used to make sure they had affordable housing for seniors in the area; that on Saturday, Delta Thigma Delta Sorority, Inc., would be presenting a red carpet event, a new movie coming out called "Easily Not Broken", that they wanted to encourage everyone to attend; that she wanted to thank her staff and wish her colleagues a Happy New Year for their continued support and what they had done to help in her first year to be successful and also she could not have done it without her constituents of District D so she wanted to thank them, that she wanted to wish them a Happy New Year and thank you; that she wanted to say congratulations to Jones High School, that they sat in District D and Wheatley sat in Council Member Johnson's district, that Jones won the game last night and beat Wheatley; that she wanted to congratulate Madison for their successful year and their football team for becoming district champs for varsity and division champs for the JV team; that on Saturday they would dedicate the Palm Center new park at 10:00 a.m. Council Members Johnson, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated that they were excited about the coffee shops going in, that when the Mayor appointed Dr. Lawson that was one of the first things she talked to her about, having some way to help their budget out and coffee was a huge item in the City so as everybody went by the plaza the coffee shop was now developed, that she looked forward to outstanding things to happen in the library, that it was going to be everyday, the weekends, that if they had the card that Council Member Green was talking about they would get a 10% discount. Council Members Johnson, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones absent.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he made the rounds at the District I Civic Clubs and got several compliments from residents about the celebratory gunfire, that they had done a good job in getting people to not shoot their firearms during the new year; that the District I CIP would take place on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the E.B. Cape Center at 4501 Leeland, if they had any questions or needed CIP forms they could call his office at 832-393-3011; that he wanted to say a special thanks to Gallegos Elementary, they had a gift from Gallegos Elementary, a CD compiled of Christmas Carols. Council Members Johnson, Noriega, Green and Jones absent.

Mayor White stated that he wanted to thank Council Member Lawrence's and many people's work on the issues of celebratory gunfire. Council Members Johnson, Adams, Noriega, Green and Jones absent.

Council Member Sullivan stated that he had a tour at the HPD Crime Analysis Real Time Lab and wanted to thank those who assisted him, that he came away with a good understanding of what they did and he felt prepared to address those who were critical of HPD in that area; that he wanted to thank Michael Moore and Director, Harry Hayes for jumping on something for him yesterday, that after Christmas they had a lot of overflowing bins at their recycling centers and one down at Ellington was especially busy and they responded yesterday by getting crews out to replace the full bins with empty bins and also cleaned up the surrounding area, that it was a particularly sensitive location because of their relationship with Ellington Field and the military aircraft that flew in and out of there, they did not want any debris

flying around because it was a potential danger for the aircraft; that a couple of weeks ago he asked the Mayor's help at Council on a Metro issue about the Gulf Freeway corridor and the park-n-ride laws and told him that he and Marie Flickenger had asked for assistance from Metro and with his intervention that had now been resolved and he would be having a meeting with Ms. Flickenger, that Metro came back with a very solid response, a good plan and one that the thought was going to serve their constituents very well, that he wanted to thank the Mayor for his intervention and Metro for their response and ability to help solve a problem; that he wanted to remind the public and the Council Members that in two hours they would have a sub-committee meeting for Water Resource Management; that he wanted to say how good it was to see the sexually oriented business victory during the holidays, that he wanted to thank Arturo Michel, the Legal Department, outside counsel and Mayor White, that they were able to shut down their first establishment. Council Members Johnson, Clutterbuck, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones absent.

Council Member Lovell asked Ms. Karen Gill, the scheduler in her office, to step forward and stated that in December at the University of Houston Downtown, Karen earned her Masters Degree in Criminal Justice, that she did it while doing an excellent job in her office, raising five teenagers, two of which were in college and two were at home, that she wanted to tell her how proud they were of her for doing an excellent job; that she wanted to say Happy Birthday to former Council Member Edwards and in advance to Council Member Holm, who birthday was tomorrow; that on the issue of graffiti, they had already been discussing renewing the efforts there, that they got hit really hard across the City just because it was the holiday season, that they would be getting with Chief Edwards to renew their efforts and make sure that they would get out there very quickly and get it taken down, that now they would plan in advance for the spring break with people to get ready and do the abatement, that they would go back to the schools and remind them that it really was a crime and they could get into a lot of trouble for doing it and that it cost the City a lot of money; that she wanted to say to Chief Hurtt, who had a meeting on reduction in crime, that they were very proud of that, that she thought the revenue they had put in was paying of, that she also wanted to compliment him on the internship program, that they were going to recruit high school seniors to become interns at the Houston Police Department hoping they would then want to become Houston Police Officers, that it was one of the best things they had done and she was hoping to watch the program grow and she thought it was going to be a huge success; that the Booting Ordinance they did in September was now in effect, so if they parked in the Central Business District they could not boot or tow their vehicle unless they gave them a receipt, that she wanted to let the public know that and if it was not happening to please call and let them know because they wanted to make sure they educated all of the owners of the parking lots about the new ordinance, that they must give a receipt before they boot and tow; that she wanted to wish everybody best wishes for the happy new year. Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated that she wanted to wish Happy New Year to all of the constituents; that she wanted to thank Sylvester Turner for ramrodding a townhall meeting with her and Senator Whitmire last night, that the subjects were apartments, park space and new development, and the Management District in northwest Houston, that they had a huge crowd and a lot of City officials and the Harris County Flood Control people were there and business and apartment owners, that they had a good mix and some very good discussions; that on the graffiti, one thing that the Management District had done, and even the homeowners group was that they partnered with the local high school and once they do that on graffiti, kids cleaning up after kids for extra credit, high school degrees, they had an exemplary degree and they had to put in so much service, that it had been very successful; that also to mention the celebratory gunfire thanks to Chief Hurtt and Chief Taylor, that Crime Stoppers, they had moved forward to adding that to the agenda of Celebratory Gunfire, catching people for an award because it was very serious; that she wanted to wish a happy birthday to Ada Edwards, Pam Holm and Elvis Presley; that about three years ago she heard of a company coming to Houston, NRP, and their

first development was going to take place in Houston, that she called and met with them and they did their development in District A, that she had some input at being sure that at some of these multi family units, they had 12,000 all over the United States, of getting police officers and giving them free rent to be part of the security there, that they build multi family and construct and manage and keep that ownership, which was important because they did not have anybody to blame if anything went wrong except themselves, that they just built 252 units in the Willowbrook area and built a beautiful place, that their rent was much cheaper than other places, that they had a fabulous business and multi family center and it all opened last night; that she sent somebody to the flooding meeting. Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Johnson wanted to say Happy New Year to everybody; that as he mentioned last week the new "Be Healthy from District B" initiative would start on Monday and hoped that everybody would have an opportunity to come out and be a part of the initiative; that yesterday in the paper he saw an article where Chief Hurtt was talking about the crime rate, in particular the number of deaths that had occurred in the Black community amongst Black youth, that he was challenging the schools, churches and the entire community and he thought that was right; that over the last year he had a notion called "Team Up to Clean Up" and the project was simple and dealt with cleaning up the community and making sure the trash was off of the ground and the weeded lots were cut, that it was incorporating, at some point or another, the Sweat Equity Program that they had been working on and making sure they could help the people who were out cleaning up the properties take ownership of it; that the churches still felt they needed more support from the Houston Police Department, the Constables office and the Metro Police, they needed support from the different entities to feel secure because in some of the neighborhoods they needed to know they were going to support and back them up, that the churches needed a rover team of police officers following them and making sure that when they do see crime and report it that there was an officer within earshot and immediately come to their aid; that he got a call from constituents in Pleasantville about a nuisance, based on their belief, that was in their neighborhood at 8240 Munn Street, that it was vacant property being used to store what looked like mulch or fertilizer, the community did not know, but it was emitting a very strong order, that they had been doing it since about December but the piles had been small, that it was a pretty large parcel of land, that anytime there was a property that was going to be storing anything a permit should be posted or a variance should be in place so that they knew what was on the property, that the Health Department was investigating, that he was hoping they would move to a new ordinance that said a permit or variance had to be posted. Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mayor White stated that he had to get after HISD and thought that it may be this property, that once they were using it to store construction materials or construction debris, that he would find out. Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Holm stated that she wanted to wish a Happy New Year to everyone; that she wanted to congratulate Mayor White, the Legal Department and the good neighbors in the Briargrove Subdivision for the victory last week on the closing of the SOB; that she would like to commend Costa Visczaya, a housing project in Council Member Lawrence's district and last night they dedicated the Council Woman Toni Lawrence Learning and Business Center in honor of her service to housing in the City of Houston. Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Khan stated that he wanted to wish a Happy New Year to everybody; that they had a good Mayor's Report on the Housing Authority, that he saw the letter that the Mayor forwarded where they received a AA- from S&P and in these tough times it was very

commendable for them to receive such a high rating for an agency of that size; that he wanted to touch base on the 2010 Census, that it was extremely crucial for everybody to be counted, that all the studies showed that the City of Houston and the region, the State of Texas, would gain in population, that they were saying that as many as two or as many as four congressional seats would be added to Texas and Houston may get at least one or maybe two congressional seats, that it was important that they have a diverse City Council, that he knew that Council Member Rodriguez was already doing a lot of work in this area, that they needed to make sure that every Houstonian was counted, that regardless of what their residency status was in the Country they were required to be a part of the census, that he wanted to make sure they did work in that area and knew that the Planning Director, Marlene Gafrick was already working on it and there had been precedence in the past as to what a city could do to make sure they did not miss out on anybody; that as they talked about reduction in crime it was great news and kudos to the Police Department and Police Chief, that there were still many areas of town which saw more crime and one of those areas was behind Westwood Mall, that he thought it was an opportunity for a lot of them to be part of the solution, that there was a group called "Ministers Against Crime", that they could have all kinds of groups against crime and be proactive in reducing crime in their neighborhoods, that they were all individually responsible first to bring peace and start by bringing peace in their neighborhoods and communities. Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 12:17 p.m. Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Brown, Noriega, Green and Jones 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