

**HOUSTON
CITY
COUNCIL
DISTRICT
G**



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Houston City Council
District G

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News From District G

August-September 2011

To The Residents of District G:



District G Honors Marathon Oil Corporation:

On September 13, 2011, Council Member Pennington presented a Mayoral Proclamation to Marathon Oil Corporation declaring it "Marathon Oil Corporation Day" in Houston, Texas.

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE—MARATHON OIL CORPORATION)

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Out and About in District G

During the last couple of months, Council Member Pennington was busy attending City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings held by the 9 City Council Committees on which he serves. In addition, Council Member Pennington and/or District G staff attended the following meetings/events outside the office:

- AIA Luncheon Meeting
- Mid-West Super Neighborhood #20 Meeting
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood #17 Meeting
- Building Cities, Building Futures Conference
- Grady Park Meeting
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood Meeting
- Pachyderm Club Monthly Meeting
- Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee Meeting
- Westchase Super Neighborhood Meeting
- Royal Oaks Community Meeting
- Port of Houston Authority Briefing and Facilities Tour
- Youth Tennis Festival at Memorial Park Tennis Center
- Pre-Construction Meeting for Safe Sidewalk Program
- Memorial Super Neighborhood #16 Meeting
- Meeting with Comcast re: Internet Essentials

Houston's Community U Conference: Lessons in Neighborhood Organizing; Saturday, October 15, 2011, 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.



Houston's Community U Conference is a half-day conference geared toward community-based organizations and individuals interested in improving their neighborhoods. It will provide Houstonians with training, resources and solutions through a combination of workshops, presentations and networking opportunities.

This year's conference is shaping up to be one of the best! Come out to learn about positive changes taking place in neighborhoods throughout Houston. See how your area can benefit from what other communities have done and discover existing resources your neighborhood may not be taking advantage of right now.

This year, the conference will include a Neighborhood of the Year Award which will be judged by attendees at the conference.

This conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the United Way of Greater Houston, 50 Waugh Drive, Houston 77007, and is only \$5 per person to cover the cost of the event. Early registration is required to attend. September 30 is the deadline for registration.

Sample Conference Topics:

- Enforcing Deed Restrictions

- Safety & Crime Prevention
- Organizing Volunteers
- Developing & Managing a Successful Neighborhood
- The Art of Leading Meetings

For more information, contact Donald Perkins at 713-837-7803 or email CommunityU@houstontx.gov.

You can find a Conference Brochure, a Printable Sign-Up Form, and an On-Line Registration Form here: http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Neighborhood/community_u.html.



“Hire Houston First” Ordinance Passed

On August 31, City Council passed the “Hire Houston First” Ordinance, which allows the City to give certain preferences to local companies when contracting for the purchase of goods and services.

Prior to 2011, Texas law allowed municipalities with a population of less than 250,000 to award contracts to businesses located within the city limits that submitted a bid within 3 percent of the lowest bid (see Section 271.9051 of the Local Government Code). As part of its legislative agenda for the recently concluded legislative session in Austin, the City of Houston advocated for and obtained an amendment to this law. H.B. 1869 removed the population limitation and now allows any city to give special consideration to local businesses.

In the ordinance passed by City Council, it is now the policy of the City of Houston to use the City’s spending powers in a manner that promotes fiscal responsibility and maximizes the effectiveness of local tax dollars by ensuring a portion of citizens’ tax dollars remain in the local economy for economic benefit of the citizens.

The ordinance creates two categories of vendors who can receive special consideration: those located within the Houston City limits (a “city business”) and those in the eight county local area (Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Brazoria, Galveston, Chambers, Waller and Liberty) (a “local business”).

For the purchase of goods or services under \$50,000, the City is required to select vendors and service providers with a principal place of

business in the eight county local area if such vendor’s bid is not more than 5% more than the lowest bid where such lowest bid is from one other than a city business or local business.

For the purchase of personal property for \$100,000 or more, if the city receives a bid from a bidder that is a city business and such bid is within 3% of the lowest bid received, the city may enter into a contract with either the lowest bidder or the bidder that is a city business. For contracts less than \$100,000, if the city receives a bid from a bidder that is a city business and such bid is within 5% of the lowest bid received, the city may enter into a contract with either the lowest bidder or the bidder that is a city business.

For the purchase of services, including construction services, the city may grant a preference to a local business if the bid received from the local business is within 5% of the lowest bid for contracts under \$100,000, or within 3% of the lowest bid for contracts of \$100,000 or more. In procuring architectural, engineering or land surveying services under the Professional Services Procurement Act, the city may consider the status of a provider as a local business as part of the qualifications determination.

There are a few exceptions to the Hire Houston First ordinance. It does not apply to any contract in which the federal government participates in the form of a grant or loan, or in which the city acts as a conduit for federal money. Also, the ordinance does not apply to the purchase of telecommunications services or information services.



High Density Ordinance Proposed

Mayor Parker has proposed a High Density Ordinance which seeks to provide buffer areas and height-buffering requirements when a development is proposed that (i) will be over 75 feet high, (ii) will be located on a local or collector street, and (iii) abuts single family residential property. The stated purpose of the proposed ordinance is to encourage development in locations where neighbors would expect development to occur (such as along Major Thoroughfares, transit corridors and in Major Activity Centers) and to discourage development in locations adjacent to single family residential property where neighbors would not expect

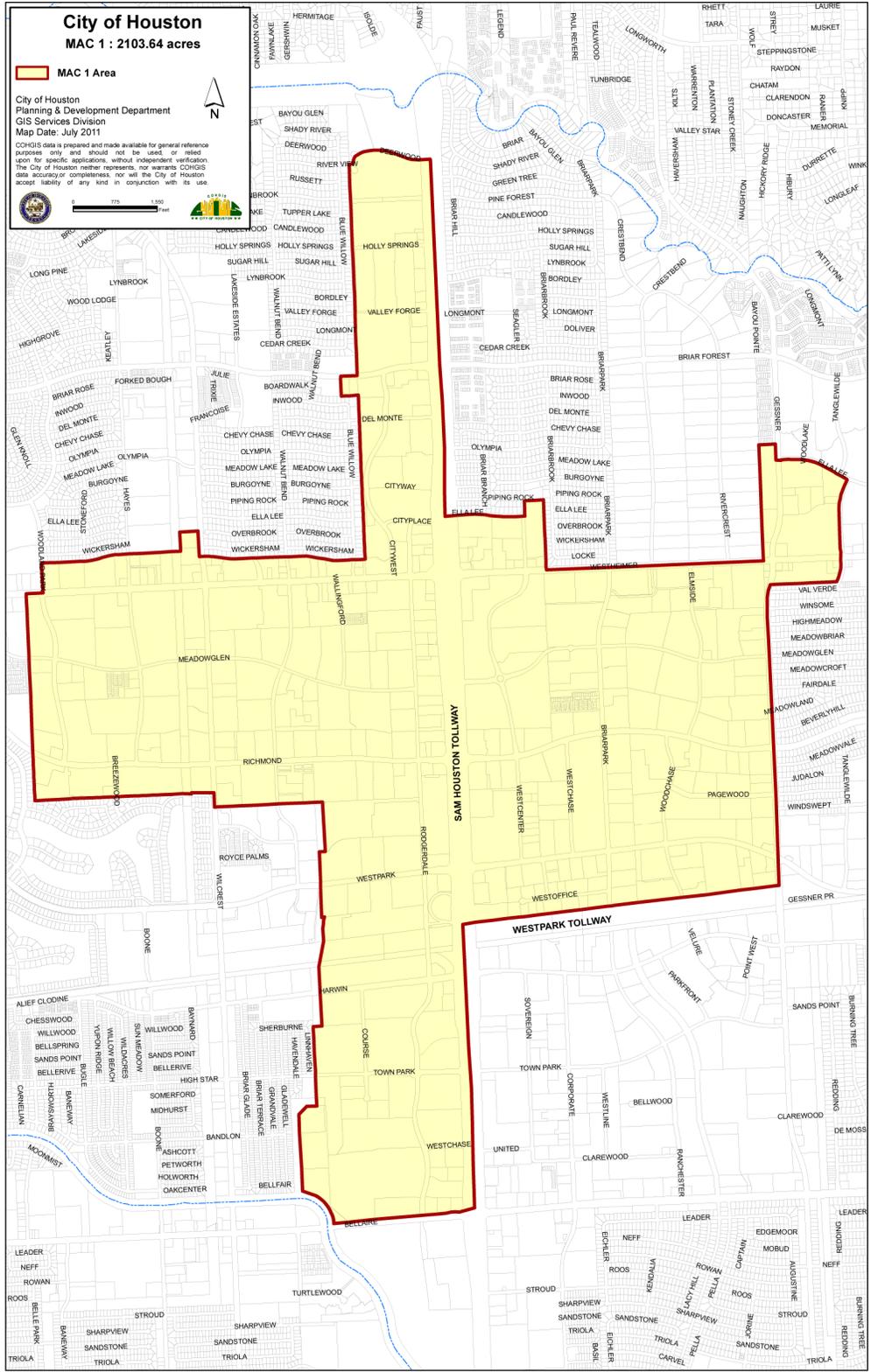
major development to occur (such as along local or collector streets).

The Draft Ordinance, the Planning Commission’s recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, the Summary Presentation, and links to maps of each of the 8 Major Activity Centers can be found here: <http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/hidensity/index.html> If you have any questions or comments, please contact Hector Rodriguez at Hector.Rodriguez@houstontx.gov.

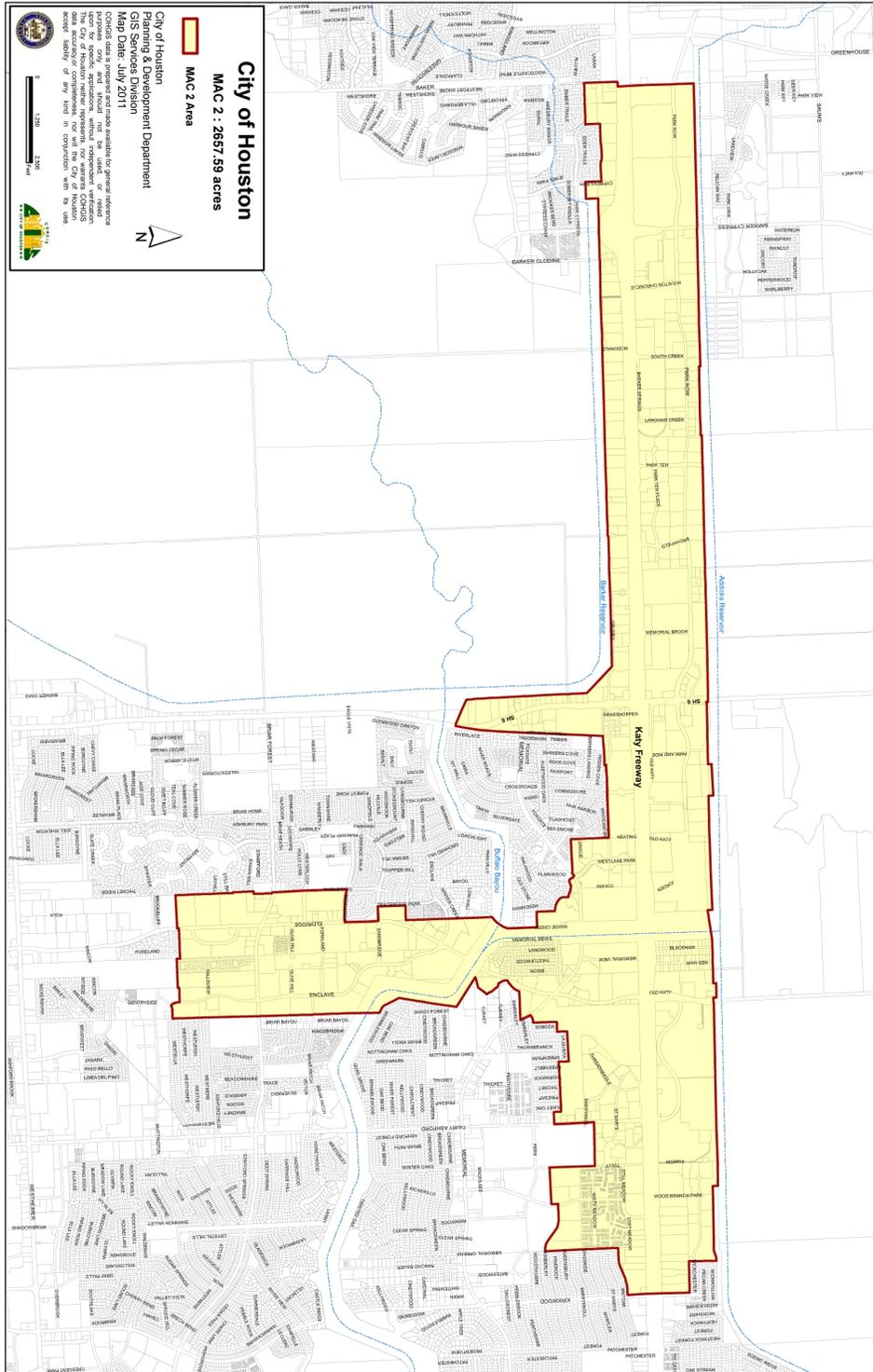
The following four (4) pages show MACs that are in, around, or that may affect District G:



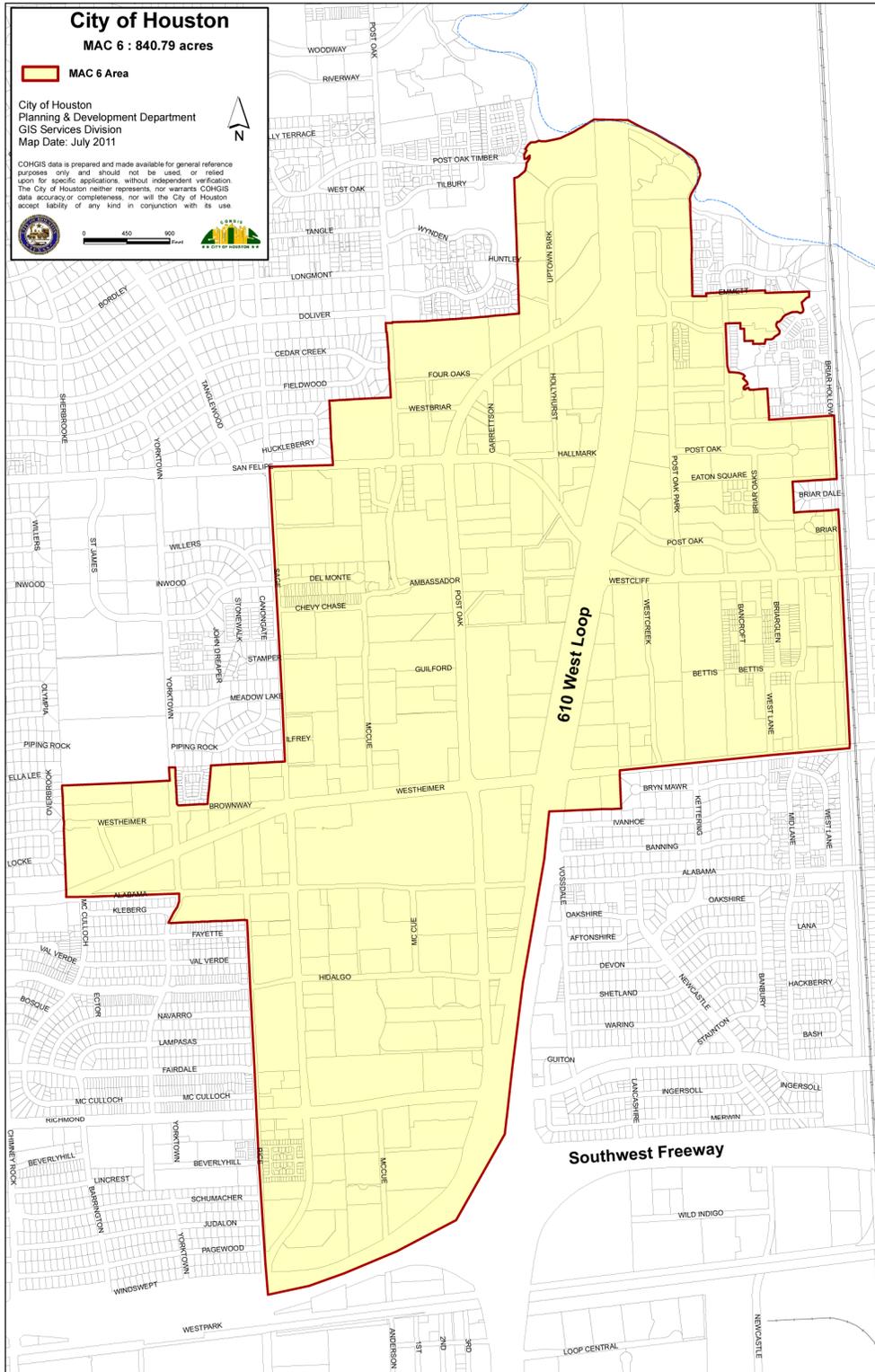
Map of MAC 1



**Map of MAC 2 — To Turn This Map 90° Counter Clockwise:
Shift + Control + Minus Sign (-)**



Map of MAC 6



Welcome to HPD Captain Michael L. Skillern



The Houston Police Department's Michael L. Skillern was recently promoted to Captain, and took over as divisional commander of the Westside Patrol Station.

Captain Skillern received a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Baylor University in 1988 and a Masters in Sociology from the University of Houston Clear Lake in 2003. He has been with HPD for 16 years. Prior to that, he was a commercial real estate appraiser. He has served at the Northeast Division as a patrol officer, at the Central Division as a Sergeant, at the Northeast Division as a Lieutenant, and has spent the last four years as a Lieutenant in the Robbery Division.

Captain Skillern is married to an HPD Officer, Elizabeth, and has four daughters. Outside of work, he is an avid hunter and golfer.

"I am very happy to have received a patrol assignment", said Captain Skillern. "My heart has always been in patrol, as we are the 'face of the department', the people most associated with the word 'police'. I like being as close as possible to where the action is happening. I am looking forward to getting to know as many residents and community members in the area as possible, knowing that with a cooperative effort we can make this a safe and family-friendly area for people to work and live."

Council Member Pennington wishes Captain Mary E. Lentschke well in her new role as head of the Special Crimes Division and welcomes Captain Skillern to his new assignment.

Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee

Mr. Theldon R. Branch, III, the Chairman of the ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee ("RHOC"), gave a presentation to the City Council Flooding & Drainage Committee on August 16. Listed below are the members of the RHOC and the committees that have been established to date.

The RHOC meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room in the basement of City Hall, 901 Bagby. Meetings are open to the public.

RHOC Members:

Ex-Officio Member:

Council Member Oliver Pennington, as Chairman of the City Council Flooding & Drainage Committee, is an Ex-Officio Member on the RHOC

Appointed by City Council: The following were appointed by City Council on May 11, 2011:

(#1) Ms. Frances Castañeda Dyess (Term Expires May 1, 2013)

(#2) Mr. Dwight Boykins (Term Expires May 1, 2012)

(#3) Mr. Edward Taravella (Term Expires May 1, 2013)

(#4) Mr. C.P. "Chip" Bryan (Term Expires May 1, 2012)

(#5) The Honorable Bert Keller (Term Expires May 1, 2013)



Appointed by the Mayor: The following were appointed by Mayor Parker on May 18, 2011:

(#6) Mr. Gilbert A. Herrera (Term Expires May 1, 2012)

(#7) Mr. Theldon Rudolph Branch, III (Chair) (Term Expires May 1, 2013)

(#8) Ms. Ann Lents (Vice Chair) (Term Expires May 1, 2012)

(#9) Mr. Jeff E. Ross (Term Expires May 1, 2013)

RHOC Committees & Responsibilities:

Program Financing: Gilbert A. Herrera (Chair), C.P. "Chip" Bryan

- Financial Structure
- Review and recommend changes to the W.A.T.E.R. fund usage fund

Planning & Programming: Jeff Ross (Chair), Ann Lents

- Review the initial 10 year Rebuild Houston plan in the 1st half of CY2012 and recommend any changes
- Evaluate the execution of projects and recommend changes to the process and priorities
- Review the criteria established by Public Works and Engineering to prioritize street and drainage projects and recommend any changes

Implementation & OM: Bert Keller (Chair), Edward Taravella

- Monitor the appeals process and if necessary suggest procedural changes generally applicable to the process
- Organizational structure (Rebuild Houston)
- Green Infrastructure Initiative

Mentoring Programs/Job Training: Dwight Boykins (Chair)

- Creation of Mentoring Program (Small Business)
- Creation of Job Training, apprenticeships/internships in partnership with education, business, non-profit and labor organizations

Communications/Brand Development: Frances Castañeda Dyess (Chair)

- Review community communications of all projects and recommend improvements to Public Works and Engineering
- Develop brand for Rebuild Houston
- Create a forum that ensures citizens are informed of projects priorities and have an opportunity to input their views



Theldon R. Branch, III
Chair of the ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee

RHOC's Duties:

- Members shall advise the city of drainage project priorities and process
- Within 12 months of their appointment, the committee shall recommend to city council principles and guidelines by which future drainage projects shall be selected and shall present to city council a proposed 10-year plan identifying drainage and street improvements recommended for construction. Following approval of such plan by City Council, the plan shall be placed on the City's website or other public location for public viewing
- review criteria established by Public Works and Engineering to prioritize street and drainage projects
- create a forum that ensures citizens are informed of project priorities and have an opportunity to input their views
- ensure fair application of the appeals process
- review community communications of all projects
- evaluate the execution of projects and recommend changes to the process and priorities
- review the initial ten year Rebuild Houston plan and recommend any changes
- participate in the creation of a mentoring program
- participate in the creation of job training, apprenticeship and internship programs in partnership with education, business, non-profit and labor organizations
- review and recommend changes to the W.A.T.E.R. fund usage criteria
- provide quarterly reports to the appropriate Council Committee

For information about the RHOC, contact Ms. Jeri Brooks at jeri@oneworldstrong.com or our office.

New Department of Neighborhoods Created



Catherine Flowers
Director,
Department of
Neighborhoods

The City of Houston welcomed its newest department, the Department of Neighborhoods (DON), on August 10, 2011, with approval from City Council. The DON accomplishes the reorganization of many divisions that were previously dispersed throughout the City organization, with the end result being a "one-stop-shop" for accessing City services and resolving neighborhood issues. The new Department Director, Catherine Flowers, was confirmed by City Council on August 17.

Contact the Department of Neighborhoods:

Department of Neighborhoods
901 Bagby, 4th Floor
Houston, TX 77002
Phone Number: 832-393-1038
Email: catherine.flowers@houstontx.gov
Website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/neighborhoods/index.html>

Currently, the DON consists of the following divisions:

(1) City of Houston Inspection & Public Services (CHIPS) - formerly *Neighborhood Protection Corp*: CHIPS enforces Chapter 10 of the Houston Code of Ordinances relating to open and vacant buildings, nuisances on private property, junk motor vehicles, weeded lots, and graffiti. Its mission is to improve the quality of life in neighborhood by reducing blight and substandard living conditions. This division is responsible for monitoring Dangerous Building Orders of the Building and Standards Commission and the Hearing Official for owner compliance.

Contact CHIPS:

City of Houston Inspections & Public Services (CHIPS)
Department of Neighborhoods
7125 Ardmore
Houston, TX 77054
Phone Number: 832-394-0600
Email: denise.thomas@houstontx.gov
Website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/chips/index.html>

(2) Anti-Gang Office: the mission of the Anti-Gang Office is to assist youth, young adults, families and communities in the prevention of gang involvement and juvenile delinquency; they develop and implement pro-

grams that provide case management, training, job readiness training, truancy reduction, victims' assistance, and information and referrals.

Contact the Anti-Gang Office:

Patricia Harrington, Director
Anti-Gang Office
Department of Neighborhoods
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251
Phone Number: 832-393-0931
Email: patricia.harrington@houstontx.gov
Website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/antigang/index.html>

(3) Citizens' Assistance Office (CAO): the mission of the Citizens' Assistance Office is to improve the quality of life for all Houstonians by promoting efficient and effective city services, encouraging community involvement and participation, handling individual citizen's concerns, supporting neighborhood revitalization efforts throughout the City of Houston, and collaboration with Super Neighborhoods and community organizations.

Contact the Citizens' Assistance Office:

Nelson Espitia, Director
Citizens' Assistance Office
900 Bagby, Public Level
Houston, TX 77002
Phone: 832-393-0955
FAX: 832-393-0952
Email: nelson.espitia@houstontx.gov
Website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/cao/index.html>

(4) Office of Education Initiatives: a solid education helps provide better jobs, better pay, and gives citizens more opportunity and choices for their lives. The Office of Education Initiatives helps students find the resources and encouragement they need to receive their high school diploma. A few of the programs run by this division are Expectation Graduation (a reach out to drop-outs walk), Green Student Ambassadors, and Teacher Externship Program.



Contact the Office of Education Initiatives:

Mark Cueva, Director
 901 Bagby, 4th Floor
 Houston, TX 77002
 Phone Number: 832-393-0816
 Email: mark.cueva@houstontx.gov
 Website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/education/index.html>

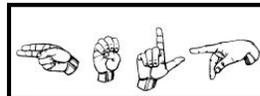
(5) Office for People with Disabilities: the primary mission of this office is to make Houston the most accessible city in the nation by working to remove physical and attitudinal barriers at all levels of City government and throughout the greater Houston community. This mission is being accomplished by providing and participating in a number of programs and services which address the needs and rights of citizens with disabilities.

Contact the Office for People with Disabilities:

Office for People With Disabilities
 1475 West Gray, Box #10
 Houston, TX 77019
 Phone Number: 713-284-1990
 E-Mail: mopdmail@houstontx.gov
 Website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/disabilities/index.html>

(6) Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs: the mission of the Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs is to encourage good citizenship and facilitate integration of immigrant and refugee communities living in the City.

This includes educating immigrant communities about their rights and responsibilities, as well as services provided and administered by the City of Houston.



Contact the Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs

Benito Juarez
 Senior Community Liaison
 Southwest Multi-Service Center
 6400 High Star, #131
 Houston, TX 77074
 Phone Number: 713-778-6503
 FAX: 713-778-6561
 Email: benito.juarez@houstontx.gov
 Website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/moira/index.html>



(7) Volunteer Initiatives Program (VIP): the volunteer initiatives program is responsible for engaging Houstonians in city government through volunteer service activities and community projects. It places 3000-5000 volunteers annually within various city departments.

Contact the Volunteer Initiatives Program:

Cameron Waldner
 Volunteer Initiatives Program
 900 Bagby, Public Level, Suite 019
 Houston, TX 77002
 Phone Number: 832-393-0971
 Fax: 832-393-0962
 Email: volunteer@houstontx.gov
 Website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/volunteer/index.html>

Looscan Neighborhood Library Closed for Renovations

The Houston Public Library Looscan Neighborhood Library, located at 2510 Willowick (77027), is now undergoing renovations. The Library closed to the public at the end of business on Friday, August 26, 2011 and will remain closed for up to 120 days.

Beginning August 30, 2011, customers are invited to visit the following neighborhood libraries closest to the Looscan Neighborhood Library for general customer services and programs:

Jungman Neighborhood Library
 5830 Westheimer, 77057 (Phone: 832-393-1860)
 Tu 10-6 | W 10-6 | Th 12-8 | F 1-5 | Sa 10-5

Freed-Montrose Neighborhood Library
 4100 Montrose, 77006 (Phone: 832-393-1800)
 Tu 10-6 | W 10-6 | Th 12-8 | F 1-5 | Sa 10-5

Library renovations will include the installation of an exterior canopy over both entrances. The library lobby will have a walk-off mat system installed to prevent slipping and catch any water during hard rains. In addition, the lobby wall finishes will be made moisture resistant and will have a stone base installed.



W-129 Drainage Ditch and San Felipe and Westheimer Bridge Construction: EXPECT MAJOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND DELAYS



For More Information:
www.hcfc.org/w129

Project Hotline:
 713-684-4040

The \$13.2 Million Harris County Flood Control District project that will reconstruct the W129-00-00 drainage ditch, located along the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks between San Felipe and Richmond, broke ground on August 15. This project will enclose a poorly-functioning drainage ditch with dual 12-foot by 10-foot reinforced concrete boxes, and will greatly improve the flow of stormwater in the Galleria area.

The project includes the demolition and replacement of the 50-year-old wood bridges that cross the drainage ditch at Westheimer Road and San Felipe Street. It is not yet known when work on the Westheimer and San Felipe bridges will begin; however, the Flood Control District will announce the construction schedule when it becomes available. The bridge reconstruction projects will require traffic flow on the Westheimer bridge to be limited to one lane in each direction for up to a month, and all lanes on the San Felipe bridge to be closed for up to two weeks. The bridges will not be replaced at the same time. The Flood Control District will establish detour routes that will aid in the flow of traffic during the bridge projects.

When the road closures do occur, **EXPECT MAJOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND DELAYS.**

As soon as that information is available, the information will be posted on the District's website (www.hcfc.org/w129) and will be emailed to those who have signed up for email notification of the project. Here, in time, you will also find Construction Updates, a Construction Schedule, Detour Information, and a Fact Sheet.

Years ago, the Flood Control District recognized the need for repairs to W129-00-00 and launched a three-phase reconstruction project in 2004. The first phase of the project consisted of replacing eroded sections of the drainage ditch between San Felipe Street and Buffalo Bayou. This \$9.4 million project enclosed the drainage ditch with dual 12-foot by 10-foot reinforced concrete boxes and was completed in 2006.

The second phase, which just began on Aug. 15, 2011, focuses on the section of the drainage ditch from San Felipe Street to Richmond Avenue. The third phase will consist of similar work from Richmond Avenue to Westpark Drive. Final Design of the third phase is set to start soon, although construction has not yet been funded. When all

three phases are complete, the structural integrity of the drainage infrastructure will be greatly improved, reducing the risk of flooding to surrounding neighborhoods and commercial areas.

For more information about the project, please contact the Project Hotline, which is monitored daily, at 713-684-4040, or visit the Flood Control District's website: www.hcfc.org/w129



Failing concrete side slopes along the drainage ditch have caused erosion and have affected the integrity of the infrastructure.



Dual 12-foot by 10-foot reinforced concrete boxes currently span from Buffalo Bayou to San Felipe Street.

Long-Range Financial Management Task Force Created

As part of this year's budget process, Council Members Pennington, Noriega, Costello and Clutterbuck co-sponsored an amendment to create a task force to take a detailed look at the city's unfunded liabilities, pensions, debts, and obligations, and to recommend how to deal with ballooning pension obligations, rising health care costs, and the City's long-term debt.

The Budget Amendment provides that:

"The Task Force will review the City's long-term financial situation and develop recommendations for a long-term plan of action for Council discussion and adoption. The Task Force will address long-range plans to include the City's unfunded liabilities, pension plans, benefit management, long-term indebtedness, the debt model, and all other City financial obligations." The task force shall present its final recommendations to the Council no later than January 31, 2012. The Task Force shall be advisory only, and its existence will terminate when the final report has been issued and submitted to the Mayor and City Council."

Task Force Members:

- Michael Nichols, Chair (retired Sysco Corporation Executive)

- Council Member C.O. "Brad" Bradford
- Council Member Anne Clutterbuck
- Council Member Stephen Costello
- Terry Bratton (Houston Police Officers' Union representative)
- Chris Brown (Chief Deputy City Controller)
- Barbara Chelette (Houston Municipal Employees Pension System Trustee)
- Todd Clark (Houston Firefighters' Relief & Retirement Fund Chairman)
- Gene Dewhurst (VP, Falcon Seaboard Diversified)
- Celeste Fatheree (Houston Professional Firefighters Association representative)
- Melvin Hughes (President, Houston Organization of Public Employees—HOPE)
- Carolyn Lacye (special assistant to the City Attorney)
- Ralph Marsh (Houston Police Officers' Pension System Vice Chairman)
- Barbara Paige (Segora Consulting)
- Ana Lee Sanchez Jacobs (Attorney)
- Fletcher Thorne-Thomsen, Jr. (owner, Lighting Protection Systems)

The Task Force's advisory recommendations are due January 31, 2012. They meet in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 901 Bagby. These meetings are open to the public. For more information, or to obtain meeting agendas, please email chris.attar@houstontx.gov.



HPD Reminds Motorists To Be Careful in School Zones

With school back in session, the Houston Police Department is reminding motorists to exercise extra caution.

"Kids are excited going back to school, especially the smaller children who may be attending school for the first time," said HPD Chief Charles A. McClelland, Jr. "Motorists should be very careful since kids have a tendency to dart in and out of traffic," he added.

Motorists should be aware of three things in particular, added HPD Sergeant A.J. Washington.

- They should know that the flashing yellow lights mean school zone speeds of 20 miles per hour are in effect.
- They should also watch for red flashing

lights on school buses. If motorists see those lights, they should stop before reaching the bus and wait until those lights are turned off before passing.

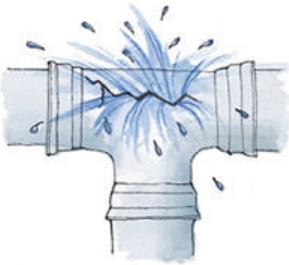
- Finally, motorists should obey the instructions of crossing guards.

"If you're caught violating one of these rules, such as speeding in a school zone, passing a school bus, or disregarding the safety/crossing guard, you could be fined anywhere from \$200 to \$1,000," said Sergeant Washington.

HPD does traffic and radar enforcement at schools across Houston throughout the school year. "Let's just make it a safe year and make sure everyone gets to and from school safely," said Sergeant Washington.



Reporting Water Leaks & Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation Measures



To Report Water Leaks:

Call 3-1-1

713-837-0311
(cell or VOIP)



Water Leaks:

From June 1, 2011, to August 28, 2011, over six thousand (6073) water main breaks have been reported to the City of Houston. During this same period, over five thousand (5040) of those leaks have been repaired, leaving a current backlog of just over one thousand (1033) leaks yet to be repaired.

If you observe a water leak in your neighborhood, please make a note of the address and report it to the City of Houston. There are a number of ways to report the leak to the 3-1-1 system:

- (1) Call 3-1-1 (cell phones or VoIP, call 713-837-0311) between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight, 7 days a week;
- (2) Send a fax any time to 713-837-0210;
- (3) Send an email any time to 311@houstontx.gov; or
- (4) Use the online self-service request form: www.houstontx.gov/311/311form.html (click "Utilities" on the bottom right; scroll down to "Water" and click on the link to the left of "Water Line: Report Minor Line Break", then fill out the form).

After you report the water leak, a representative from the City will visit the location to examine the severity of the leak, and will enter the relevant information into the City's dispatch system to prioritize the repair work. For instance, a leak in a 24" water main will take precedence over a break in a 6" water line. After the repairs have been prioritized, a crew will be dispatched to fix the leak (sometimes this takes days and sometimes this takes weeks). This often leaves the area dug up and unsightly. A different crew will later be dispatched to remediate the area (construct new sidewalks or curbs, replant grass, etc.).

Of the leaks that have been repaired from June 1 through August 28, the following is a breakdown of the time it has taken to make the repairs:

0-3 days:	44%
4-6 days:	18.5%
7-9 days:	16%
10-13 days:	12.5%
14-20 days:	8%
Over 20 days:	1%

The City has recently hired 60 additional workers to help complete necessary water leak re-

pairs. We are hopeful that these workers will help the City get through the current backlog of repair requests.

Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation Measures:

As you are no doubt aware, due to persistent drought conditions and continuously decreasing water levels in Lake Houston, Mayor Parker has ordered Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation Measures. During Stage 2, residents are required to repair all detectable leaks within 72 hours of discovery and are required to limit outdoor irrigation to two days a week according to the following schedule:

- **Even Numbered Street Address: on Sundays and Thursdays, you may water from 12:01 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 8:00 p.m. until midnight.**
- **Odd Numbered Street Address: on Saturdays and Wednesdays, you may water from 12:01 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 8:00 p.m. until midnight.**

No one may irrigate on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays. No one may irrigate during the hours of 10:01 a.m. and 7:59 p.m. on ANY day of the week.

There is no limitation on the amount of watering you may do during these times, although you are asked to voluntarily conserve as much as possible.

According to the City's FAQs (http://conservation.publicworks.houstontx.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3), residents CAN use a bucket, watering can or hand-held hose at ANY TIME on ANY DAY. The crucial distinction is that the resident must be holding the hose throughout the duration of watering. You are not allowed to turn the hose on, place it on the ground and walk away.

Ways to conserve water:

- Keep showers under five minutes
- Turn water off while brushing your teeth
- Wash only full loads of dishes or clothes
- Replace older model showerheads and faucet aerators with new low-flow models and install low water use toilets

- Inspect toilets for silent leaks by putting food coloring in the toilet tank. If colored water leaks into the toilet bowl before flushing, water is being lost due to a worn flapper
- Refrain from washing any vehicle or motor-bike unless the dirt poses a driving hazard
- Refrain from washing down any sidewalk, walkway, driveway, parking lot or any other hard-surfaced area

More information on water conservation: <http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/utilities/conservation.html>

More Information on the Stage 2 Water Conservation Measures in Place: <http://conservation.publicworks.houstontx.gov/>



CITY OF HOUSTON STAGE TWO WATER SHORTAGE WATERING SCHEDULE



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12:00 am							
1:00 am	Even			Odd	Even		Odd
2:00 am	Numbered			Numbered	Numbered		Numbered
3:00 am	Street			Street	Street		Street
4:00 am	Addresses			Addresses	Addresses		Addresses
5:00 am							
6:00 am	12am			12am	12am		12am
7:00 am	to			to	to		to
8:00 am	10 am			10 am	10 am		10 am
9:00 am							
10:00 am							
11:00 am							
12:00 pm							
1:00 pm	No watering allowed during these hours						
2:00 pm							
3:00 pm							
4:00 pm							
5:00 pm							
6:00 pm							
7:00 pm							
8:00 pm	Even			Odd	Even		Odd
9:00 pm	Numbered			Numbered	Numbered		Numbered
10:00 pm	Street			Street	Street		Street
11:00 pm	Addresses			Addresses	Addresses		Addresses
12:00 am	8pm to 12 pm			8pm to 12 pm	8 pm to 12 pm		8 pm to 12 pm

Refinancing Bonds Saves City More Than \$100 Million

With the City of Houston’s most recent refinancing of its 2001 Water & Sewer bonds, savings generated by bond deals executed by the City during the past 12 months will now total more than \$100 million over the next several years. Favorable interest rates have caused the City to aggressively seek the lower rates—without extending the period of indebtedness on any of the bonds. The water and sewer transaction generated over \$30.5 million in savings. Wells Fargo served as the lead bank on the transaction, which took place on August 23, 2011. Other firms taking part in the transaction were Morgan Keegan, Ramirez & Co., Loop Capital, Fidelity, and Jefferies & Co.

The City Controller’s Treasury Division oversees a debt program of approximately \$13 billion. The City’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)—which includes infrastructure projects such as water and sewer, streets and new facilities like police and fire

stations—is funded largely through debt, just as the typical home buyer finances a home with a mortgage.

With the AA rating by S&P and the AA- rating by Fitch, and the fact that \$500 million in orders were placed for just under \$170 million in bonds, the City was able to refinance this debt out to 2021 at a fixed interest rate of 1.4%.

In August 2011, a bond sale of \$212 million by the City’s Combined Utility System to re-finance previously issued bonds resulted in savings of \$32 million over nine years. In addition, the City refinanced over \$500 million of airport debt saving the City more than \$30 million over 15-20 years. Over the past year, the City also refunded general obligation debt and Convention and Entertainment debt achieving over \$28 million in savings.



If you would like to receive periodic emails from Mayor Annise D. Parker and the City of Houston on topics of interest to you and your neighborhood, please go to <http://www.houstontx.gov> and register with CitizensNet



3-1-1

Cell phone or VOIP:
713-837-0311

Fax: 713-837-0210

Email: 311@houstontx.gov

Website:

www.houstontx.gov/311/311form.html

District G Staff:

John Moss
Chief of Staff
(832) 393-3271

Mark F. Kirschke, Esq.
Director of Communications
(832) 393-3267

Mary Harmon
Director of Constituent
Services
(832) 393-3272

(MARATHON OIL CORPORATION— CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Marathon Oil Corporation is a strong, highly focused international energy company engaged in exploration and production, oil sands mining and integrated gas. The Company's approach to its business is rooted in a philosophy called *Living our Values*, which is a longstanding commitment to health and safety, environmental stewardship, honesty and integrity, corporate citizenship and a high-performance team. These core values underpin all of Marathon Oil's business decisions and guide the Company to make a positive impact in communities where its employees live and work.

Marathon Oil Corporation has had a business presence in the City of Houston for many decades, and is proud to make its headquarters here. Marathon Oil employs approximately 1,500 people in the Houston area, and 3,200 worldwide. Part of the culture at Marathon Oil is the belief that conducting business in any community is a privilege to be earned, and that making sustainable, responsible contributions to those communities is an integral part of its business. Marathon Oil and its employees have given untold volunteer hours and contributed to a range of charitable and philanthropic causes that have helped enrich the Houston community.

Marathon Oil made a large contribution to the City of Houston this summer to prevent eight local swimming pools (Alief, Cloverland, Finnigan,

Hobart Taylor, Judson Robinson, Sr., Independence Heights, Landsdale, and Love) and seven community centers (Almeda, Charlton, Cherryhurst, Independent Heights, Platou, Swiney and Tuffly) from closing. Marathon Oil also recently made a major financial commitment to the City of Houston to begin the renovation of Grady Park, located at Sage Road and San Felipe Street, which is one of Marathon's neighbors. Council Member Pennington hopes the Marathon contribution will encourage other donations to the park and to the recreational area for the adjacent Grady Middle School.

In all, Marathon Oil Corporation has donated approximately \$5 million dollars this year to Texas charities, largely in the Houston area. Just this past week, they donated more than \$1 million worth of materials and services to help in the relief effort from the devastating Texas wildfires.

Pictured L to R: Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks & Recreation Department; Houston City Council Member Oliver Pennington, District G; Clarence P. Cazalot, Jr., Chairman of the Board, President and CEO, Marathon Oil Corporation; Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker; Howard J. Thill, Vice President, Investor Relations and Public Affairs, Marathon Oil Corporation; Dorysa K. Moore, Manager, Government Affairs, Marathon Oil Corporation; John Breeding, President, Uptown Houston District.

*****Use of Barbeque Pits Banned in City Parks*****

On September 9, Mayor Parker issued a Proclamation declaring a local state of disaster for the City as a result of the exceptional drought now causing an imminent threat of serious fires. The Proclamation includes a prohibition of the use of barbeque pits in City parks. On September 14, City Council passed an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to continue the Proclamation and the local state of disaster until terminated by an additional ordinance approved by City Council. A violation of this Proclamation can be punished by a fine of \$200 to \$2,000.

Barbeque Safety Tips: Portable barbecue pits, charcoal grills and other open-flame cooking devices outside of a building should not be operated on combustible balconies or located within 10 feet of combustible walls or roofs or other combustible materials. When igniting the barbecue charcoal, use a charcoal lighter, not gasoline. Gasoline can flash violently in and around the pit causing serious injuries to anyone in the area of the flash. A fire extinguisher or charged garden hose should be handy while the fire is burning. Check the pit frequently to ensure that it is okay. Hot ash and coals from barbecue pits and charcoal burners should be placed in a non-combustible container until cooled or thoroughly saturated with water, before being disposed.

Residents are reminded that we are in a severe drought, with exceptionally dry natural areas. Another major cause of accidental fires is carelessly discarded cigarettes or other smoking materials. They can smolder for hours and should be completely doused with water before being discarded in a safe manner, rather than tossed out a window or on the ground. Please be extremely careful with any open flame.