



# CITY OF HOUSTON NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER PETER BROWN

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BRINGING CITY SERVICES CLOSER TO HOUSTON NEIGHORBOODS THROUGH “ONE-STOP SHOPPING” SERVICE CENTERS**

**June 22, 2009** – The director of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Stella Chao, joined Houston City Council Member Peter Brown and almost 100 community leaders at the West End Multi-Service Center Monday night (July 19) to unveil ways to bring city services closer to Houston neighborhoods.

Director Chao discussed ways her department has empowered neighborhoods, sponsored community-based projects, and successfully brought municipal government closer to residents through a system of satellite offices throughout the city of Seattle. “Our residents really love being able to walk a few blocks to their nearest service center for assistance,” said Director Chao. “The knowledgeable staff at our service centers assist with permitting, neighborhood protection, planning, they accept utility bill payments, voter registration, passport applications, accident reports, and a host of many other services that would normally require one to travel to downtown.”

Council Member Peter Brown believes this is a concept the city of Houston should explore. “I brought Director Chao to Houston to meet with various city and community leaders to talk about neighborhood empowerment, and decentralized city services.” Council Member Brown said, “Houston is a big, spread-out city and trying to run everything from downtown is not effective or efficient for our residents.”

Council Member Brown told the Super Neighborhood, and community leaders representing numerous neighborhoods throughout Houston including, Kingwood, Alief, Heights, East-End, Clear Lake, Spring Branch, Westbury, Montrose, that “If we can’t fix our neighborhoods, we can’t fix our city.”

*Peter Brown, FAIA, AICP, is a third-generation Houstonian, a nationally recognized architect and urban planner, serving his second term on Houston City Council, At-Large Position 1.*

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