



# CITY OF HOUSTON

## NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER PETER BROWN

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### COUNCIL MEMBER PETER BROWN COMMENDS PLAN FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT BARC

**October 2, 2009** – The City of Houston released plans late Thursday (October 1) for a \$3.3 million investment for major improvements at the City’s current Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC) facility.

Council Member Peter Brown recognized the need for improvements earlier this summer at a City Council meeting. “I toured the BARC facility, and was disappointed by the condition the building was in,” said Brown. “I immediately came before City Council and the Mayor and expressed my concern with the facility, comparing the kennels to something out of the 16th century, and even posed the idea of converting BARC into a quasi-public organization like the Houston Zoo.”

The proposed renovation plan calls for:

- Replacing the kennels in the North building with a new facility similar to the South building, with 200 appropriately sized cages.
- Adding a new modular facility for cat housing and renovating the first floor of the North building to include cat “condos.”
- Renovating and enlarging the surgery area in the North building to enable a higher volume of spay/neuter services (up to 50/day).
- Improving public access by adding a new public parking area.

Additionally, Council Member Brown supported the removal of BARC from the City’s Health and Human Services Department, and bringing a much needed change agent to BARC. “I know these changes will lead to a positive transformation at BARC, and make way for an amazing adoption center,” added Brown.

*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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