



CITY OF HOUSTON NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER PETER BROWN

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HOUSTON COUNCIL MEMBER PETER BROWN GRATIFIED TO SEE REPORT BY TASK FORCE ON ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

April 21, 2009 - Houston City Council Member Peter Brown applauds the Mayor's Task Force on Electric Reliability, chaired by Paul Hobby, for their findings and recommendations to build a more reliable and high-tech electrical distribution network in Houston.

The report, which was released today, calls for improvements where computer controlled automatic sensors and switches "repair" the grid after a storm. "We support CenterPoint Energy's efforts to implement recommendations to make our City more resilient to natural disasters, and to reduce risks of prolonged power outages," said Council Member Brown.

While improving our electrical infrastructure, Council Member Brown, Chairman of the City Council committee on Sustainable Growth, recommends incentives for the use of solar power and other renewable sources, selective burying of utility lines, and energy conservation at home and at the workplace. Council Member Brown also recommends continued efforts to reduce electrical costs: "With some of the highest electrical rates in the United States, the City and CenterPoint should also make a concentrated effort to significantly reduce the cost of electricity for both residential and commercial customers."

Days after last year's devastating Hurricane Ike, Council Member Peter Brown called for the creation of the Task Force. Mayor White later created a Task Force on Electric Reliability, which brought together experts in the electric power industry, charged with making recommendations to improve the current power grid. The Task Force's complete report can be found online at www.HoustonTX.gov/council/1.

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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