



**Jerry Davis**  
City Council Member  
District B

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Houston Elected Officials to join Council Member Jerry Davis at his inaugural Walking Toward Literacy event in District B**

**HOUSTON — October 26, 2012** — District B Council Member Jerry Davis and the Houston Center for Literacy are pleased to announce the inaugural Walking Toward Literacy event, to be held Saturday, October 27th, 2012 from 8am to 2pm at Tidwell Park Community Center. Walking Toward Literacy is a free event geared to promote literacy as a pathway to success. Several community partners will be participating in this event providing books, health and wellness screenings, arts and crafts for the children, and more.

Throughout the month of October on Tuesday and Thursday during the school day, District B staff joined by the At-Large council offices and community volunteers have been reading to students at eight elementary schools in Northeast Houston: Atherton, Betsy Ross, Houston Gardens, Isaacs, Kashmere Gardens, Lakewood, Nat Henderson, and Thurgood Marshall. Houston Public Library and Houston Center for Literacy have been supporting this month-long effort by providing books for volunteers to read to the students. Several additional community partners are excited to participate in the concluding walk by providing books, health and wellness screenings, arts and crafts for the children, and more.

“The current District B profile reveals as of 2010, 44.6% of District B minors are living in poverty. Only 31% of District B residents have achieved a high school diploma or its equivalent. The high level of correlation between income and literacy are clear. Our month of reading was truly a success and I am excited to conclude with this literacy awareness walk. As we embark on this journey we hope to improve the literacy rate among District B youth. I am elated that we have been able to foster a partnership between the North Forest and Houston Independent School Districts, with the goal of improving the future of our communities,” said Council Member Davis.

The event will start off with a two mile-long walk from Tidwell to Parker Rd. and back where walk participants can enjoy the festivities. Several Elected officials are scheduled to address the community, including Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who will kick-off the program by reading to the children. Other elected officials supporting the initiative are: Rep. Harold Dutton, Rep. Senfronia Thompson, HISD Trustee Rhonda Skillern-Jones, Council Member Jack Christie, and Council Member Stephen Costello.

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