

## **Jerry Davis**

City Council Member District B

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## Council Member Jerry Davis Launches Literacy Initiative: Walking Toward Literacy in District B

**HOUSTON** — **September 27, 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.

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 will read 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 will be 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. This is why I am excited about the month to come, 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.

What: Walking Toward Literacy with District B Principals, faculty and students, and Council

Member Jerry Davis

Where: Atherton Elementary School, 5426 Cavalcade St., Houston, TX 77026

When: Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM

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