CITY OF HOUSTON
DRAINAGE SYSTEM
Ch. 47 code amendments

Transportation, Technology & Infrastructure Committee
Presented by
David M. Feldman, City Attorney
April 9, 2014
• April 6, 2011 – City Council approved an ordinance creating the City’s drainage utility system.
• July 1, 2011 – the drainage system ordinance went into effect.
• Over a period of time, PWE and Legal have identified areas that need clarification, updating, or codifying.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

• The definition of “benefitted property” is clarified.
• The responsibility and authority of the PWE Director to administer and operate the drainage system is made more specific.
• Information relied on by the City to determine the amount of impervious surface is clarified and expanded to include property inspections and appraisal district data, as well as current digital map data.
• The verification and correction process is expanded beyond review of the amount of impervious surface, to include property ownership, when property is benefited and whether an exemption is applicable.

• The documentation needed to justify an adjustment in charges is enumerated.

• The availability of review (appeal) of the decision of a hearing examiner is codified and the use of a three-member review panel formally established.
CONCLUSION

• Questions?