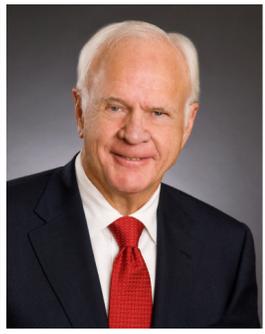


**HOUSTON
CITY
COUNCIL
DISTRICT
G**



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News From District G

January 2011

To The Residents of District G:

Happy New Year to my District G constituents!!

This year promises to be a very challenging and busy one for the City and for the District G office. We will have our annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meeting on February 23, during which constituents are invited to present their requests for major construction projects in the District to our office and to City Department Heads. There will be a number of meetings and public hearings held to discuss the implementation of, and set the rates for, the City's new street and drainage fee (formerly known as Renew Houston, and then as Proposition 1 on last fall's ballot), which the City is now calling "Rebuild Houston". As required by the City Charter, we will also be redistricting the City this spring to add two new single-member district seats, and redraw all City Council District lines. We have scheduled a Community Input/Town Hall Meeting for District G on March 21, and there will also be three public hearings on April 13 and 20 during which everyone is encouraged to participate and express their views regarding what Houston's eleven single-member districts should look like for the next ten years.

The greatest challenge we face this year is to develop a realistic balanced FY 2012 budget. I have met with the Mayor and her administration on a regular basis to discuss ideas and suggestions that are important to my constituents, and will continue to do so throughout the year. We have not seen an appreciable rise in property values or sales tax revenues, so the City will again be challenged to cut sufficient expenses to balance the budget (without a tax increase). Like businesses across the City, we are again being asked to tighten our belt and do more with less. We are hoping this can be accomplished with only a minimal disruption in the quality and timeliness of services the City is able to provide.

We are also still in the process of trying to eliminate the deficit in the FY 2011 budget. We have instituted involuntary furloughs for non-mission-critical employees (including me and my staff), we continue to work out Fleet Management changes (fuel, repairs and take-home vehicle policy), the administration continues its consolidation of HR, Payroll and Information Technology, we are better managing city facility hours of operation (such as the shortened hours of our neighborhood libraries), and we continue to renegotiate contracts where we can. Many Department Heads have reduced operating budgets, however, additional work is needed to fully balance the budget. We are also looking to consummate a number of non-right-of-way land sales by the end of the fiscal year. Through layoffs, consolidations, attrition, and hiring freezes, we have also eliminated over 500 City employees during the calendar year 2010.

Please plan on attending as many of our important meetings this spring as you can. We welcome and encourage your participation in the CIP, Rebuild Houston Implementation, and Redistricting processes. We always welcome your calls for constituent services.

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Out and About in District G



During the last couple of months, Council Member Pennington was extremely busy attending City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings held by the 9 City Council Committees on which he serves. In addition, Council Member Pennington and/or District G staff attended the following meetings/events outside the office:



- TIRZ 17
- Mid-West Super Neighborhood #20
- Houston Zoo African Exhibit Grand Opening
- Meeting with VisitHouston.com
- Meeting with Bayou Greenway Initiative
- Houston Apartment Association Reception
- Memorial Park Conservancy Presentation
- Meeting with Houston A+ Challenge
- Automated Recycling Program Expansion Press Conference
- Neighborhood Protection Corp Public Hearing
- Meeting with Iron Sky (Camera Vendor for Operation Westside Success)
- Meeting Re: Rivercrest/Briargrove Park Traffic Issues
- Speaker, *Hong Kong: Managing Opportunities and Challenges in China*
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood #17
- Crime Prevention Meeting with Memorial Drive Business Owners, HPD & Precinct 5 Constables
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce
- Meeting with Glenbrook Valley Historic District representatives
- Houston Police Department Ride-Along
- Greater Houston Partnership Annual Meeting
- Tour of The Source Women's Center
- Meeting Re: Grady Park Tree Planting
- Memorial Super Neighborhood #16
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood #18
- Westchase Super Neighborhood #19
- Meeting at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memorial Super Neighborhood Drainage Committee Presentation of "Causes For Buffalo Bayou Flooding: A Regional View of 4/28/09"
- Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership Banquet
- Public Hearings relating to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

District G Street Overlay Projects



Below are several road project overlays of interest that have been approved by the Texas Department of Transportation using federal stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Each project consists of the construction of base, repair of flexible and rigid pavements, construction of approximately 3.5 inches of hot mix asphaltic concrete pavement, panel replacement, curb repair, striping and curb ramps. These projects were scheduled to be completed in 2010 but were delayed due to

federal ARRA requirements:

Shepherd/Durham – from Memorial Drive to IH-10. Construction is scheduled to begin in the next 60 days and be completed within a year.

Weslayan – from San Felipe to US 59. Construction is scheduled to begin in the next 60 days and be completed within a year.

Harwin – from Beltway 8 to US 59. Construction is scheduled to begin in the next 60 days and be completed within a year.

Washington Avenue – from Westcott to IH-45. Construction is scheduled to begin in the next 60 days and be completed within the next 5 months.

District G CIP Meeting Scheduled for February 23, 2011

The annual District G CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) meeting for Fiscal Year 2012-2016 is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 23, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Community Center, located at 3599 Westcenter Dr., 77042 (between Richmond and Westpark, just east of the Sam Houston Beltway 8). This is the annual meeting held by each City Council District to discuss ongoing CIP Projects and to receive constituent input regarding desired CIP projects. Numerous Department representatives will be in attendance at the meeting and available to answer your questions.

If you have capital improvement plan ideas or requests, you are encouraged to submit them through the City's 3-1-1 Self Service Online Web Request (https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web_intake/Controller). Under *Service Type* select "CIP Project Request". When the *Service Type Matches* page pops up, select "Request This Service", then complete the online form. Be sure to clearly and succinctly describe the

project you are requesting in the *Additional Comments* field. If you have pictures or other items you wish to submit in support of your CIP request, please email them to 311@houstontx.gov (remember to include the SR#, Service Request Number, you are given when you submit your online request).

In addition to the ordinary CIP agenda, we anticipate that someone from the administration will be on hand to discuss the implementation, rate setting principles, and timeline of "Rebuild Houston" (f/k/a Proposition 1, f/k/a Renew Houston), concerning the creation of a dedicated pay-as-you-go fund for improving and maintaining Streets and Drainage.

To view the December 22, 2010, Rebuild Houston Implementation Discussion Guide, please visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/rebuildhouston20101222.pdf>



District G Annual CIP Meeting:

**February 23
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

In Honor and Remembrance of HPD Officer Robert L. Curl, Jr.



Submitted by Joan Buschor, CityWide PIP Chair

Officer Robert L. Curl, Jr., passed away on December 16, 2010. He was an officer with the Houston Police Department for the last 20 years. He leaves behind his wife, Sherry, and two young daughters, Jordan and Hailey. If you are lucky, you will meet someone in your lifetime who is truly a kind and gentle person who cares about family, friends and community. This

was Officer Curl. Robert was born in Houston 43 years ago and graduated from MacArthur Senior H.S. He was a Security Officer in the United States Marine Corp. and joined HPD Academy Class Number 144 on May 13, 1991. Officer Curl was assigned to the Midwest Division and also worked at the Westside Division, Emergency Communications Division, Juvenile Division, and the Special Operations & Public Affairs Division.

I worked with Officer Curl in the Positive Interaction Program, known as the "PIP". The PIP is a program of Citizens and Police working together through Friendship and Education. It was established in 1983 and is now 28 years old. Robert was the Midwest PIP Divisional Coordinator.

Donations for his family can be made through the Assist The Officer Foundation, 1600 State Street, Houston 77007. Please identify your tax deductible donation as:

"ATO – ROBERT CURL"



Rebuild Houston Implementation Discussion Guide



Rebuild Houston Implementation Presentation

February 3
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Southwest Multi-Service Center
6400 High Star Dr.
Houston, TX 77074

The administration has produced a Rebuild Houston Implementation Discussion Guide, which outlines the fundamental principles and timeline of implementing Proposition 1 (f/k/a Renew Houston) and the new street and drainage fee: <http://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/rebuildhouston20101222.pdf>

The implementation of the voter-approved Proposition 1 will be overseen by a committee comprised of the entire City Council with Mayor Parker serving as Committee Chair. The goal is for full implementation to be accomplished by July 1, 2011.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:

Lock Box: all funds will be used only for the purpose of building and maintaining the street and drainage system.

Exemptions: only properties exempt under State Law will be exempt from paying the drainage fee (state owned properties and institutions of higher learning). No one section will subsidize the other (residential/commercial/industrial). Eight of the ten largest cities in Texas have a drainage fee (including Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, Fort Worth, Lubbock and Abilene). Only Austin and Lubbock exempt schools, with El Paso providing schools a 10% discount. NONE of these eight cities exempt churches or other non-profit organizations.

Appeals Process: a verification and appeals process will be developed.

Rate Cap: all adopted drainage and street fee rates will be capped for 10 years.

Project Priorities: initially, the current five year CIP list will be used. New projects will be added when the comprehensive street and drainage needs re-assessments have been completed. Needs assessment for streets will be based on technical evaluation and pavement condition reports generated by the Street Surface Assessment Vehicle (see picture). The preparation of a needs assessment for drainage will be based on technical calculations using the 1999 Comprehensive Drainage Plan and an updated Storm Water Enhancement Evaluation Tool, which is currently under development.

Advisory Council: the Mayor and City Council will appoint an advisory council, including stakeholders with significant experience in construc-

tion, engineering, and finance. Appointees may not be city employees and will not be drawn from contractors, engineers or firms participating in the street and drainage construction program.

Local Small & Minority Business Participation: the city's Small, Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises management and contract compliance system program will be fully enforced. A "Hire Houston First" program will seek to use local vendors and contractors when possible. A mentoring program similar to the Greater Houston Wastewater Program in the 1990's will be implemented. Also, job training, apprenticeship and internship programs in partnership with educational, business, non-profit and labor organizations will be developed and implemented.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE; Key Steps & (Target Date):

- Prepare draft implementation ordinance (January 2011)
- Initiate impact fee study (January 2011)
- Review draft implementation ordinance with City Council (February 2011)
- Publish public notice of hearing on proposed implementation ordinance (February 2011)
- Receive input at District CIP Meetings (February 23, 2011 for District G)
- Refine/revise capital improvement planning and programming methodology (February 2011)
- Conduct public hearing on ordinance (March/April 2011)
- City Council to vote on implementation ordinance (March/April 2011)
- Publish public notice of hearing on drainage fee rate (March/April 2011)
- Conduct public hearing on drainage fee rate (March/April 2011)
- City Council to vote on drainage fee rate (March/April 2011)
- Implement new methodology for future CIP process "worst first" (April 2011)
- Complete initial pavement condition assessment (June 2011)
- Continue development of the Storm Water Enhancement Evaluation Tool (June 2011)
- Present city-wide needs assessments through a 20 year horizon (July 2011)

Public Hearing on Redistricting Scheduled in District G

The City's Charter provides that when the City's population tops 2.1 million, the City is required to create two (2) new single-member District Council seats. While that milestone was passed in 2006, the City decided to wait until the results of the 2010 Census. Federal law requires precinct-level data for redistricting, which will not be available until after the 2010 count.

The last big shakeup in political representation at Houston City Hall came over 30 years ago, in 1979. As part of a deal with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the City was allowed to complete its annexation of Clear Lake City, over the objections of most residents of that area, only if it broke up its eight person city council system with all members elected at large. The new city council would retain five at-large members, but nine single-member district seats were added. To placate a number of community leaders who had pushed for an all district council, the City and DOJ agreed that when the municipal population, then about 1.6 million, reached 2.1 million, two additional district council seats would be added.

Estimated Redistricting Timeline:

January 15, 2011—Engage consultant (Demographer) to assist in redistricting

February 28, 2011—Census Bureau expected to release Texas data by this date

March 2, 2011—Ordinance declaring population of city and finding single member council districts materially imbalanced (assuming census information is received in February)

March 9, 2011—Resolution establishing procedures, criteria and rules for the establishment of council member district boundaries

March, 2011—Community Input / Town Hall meetings (across the city)

March 21, 2011—Community Input/Town Hall Meeting for District G, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Briargrove Elementary School, located at 6145 San Felipe St., Houston, TX 77057 (on the South side of San Felipe between Fountain View Dr. and S. Voss Rd.)

April 6, 2011—Staff Plan complete, per Planning Department

April 13, 2011—Public Hearing 9:00 a.m. at City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2nd Floor, 77002

April 20, 2011—Public Hearings (2 sessions) 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2nd Floor, 77002

May 4, 2011—Redistricting Plan complete, per Planning Department. Legal Department prepares ordinance adopting the Redistricting Plan

May 5-10, 2011—Review Plan with Council, per Planning Department

May 6, 2011—all redistricting plans prepared by other persons for the city's consideration must be submitted to the city by 4:15 p.m.

May 11, 2011—Planning Department to present proposed final maps and final proposal for the new Council District Boundaries

May 18, 2011—Council approves Redistricting Plan ordinance establishing boundaries of single member districts (taggable to May 25)

May 25, 2011—Tag date for Council approval of Redistricting Plan ordinance

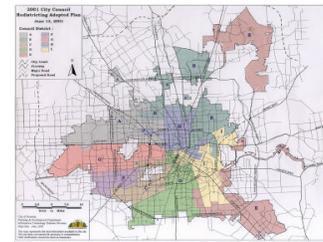
June 1, 2011—Target date to submit plan to Department of Justice for preclearance (allows for a 60-day DOJ review prior to the deadline for setting the boundaries and completion of extended review, if necessary, prior to election date)

August 3, 2011—Deadline for Redistricting Plan ordinance establishing boundaries of single member districts (more than 3 months before Election Day)

August 8, 2011—First date for Council Member/Mayor/Controller Candidates to file for a place on the ballot

September 7, 2011—Last date for Council Member/Mayor/Controller Candidates to file for a place on the ballot

November 8, 2011—Election Day



District G
Community Input &
Town Hall
Redistricting
Meeting

March 21
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Naomi Mitchum!!



Council Member Pennington congratulates Naomi Mitchum, resident of District G, who was recently presented the Mayor's Disability Advocate of the Year Award at a ceremony in Council Chambers at City Hall. Family, friends, and many fellow residents of District G were in attendance.

Naomi Mitchum's advocacy began by writing books: she has published over 50 student books, teacher books, related resource kits, teacher enrichment articles, as well as many filmstrips and dramas. Her book, *Harps in the Willows*, was used in Salvation Army Counseling Centers after 9/11. Naomi has led her local church planning and creating awareness of the needs of people with disabilities. She organized a committee in 1995 that visits churches across Texas to help them become more accessible. She has taught over 40 classes at leadership schools and conferences covering accessibility and educational opportunities for people with disabilities. Naomi has worked with organizations to improve and coordinate transportation, select an appropriate voting machine, organized recreational and religious groups to meet special needs, participated in panel discussions and worked in the community with parents to promote disaster preparedness.

At the Ceremony held in Council Chambers, Mrs. Mitchum, who has been confined to a wheel chair for the last 15 years, said "the landmark American With Disabilities Act opened many doors, but it didn't tell us how to walk through those doors, especially in the field of spirituality and church-related and educational services. Every door is different with various disabilities and needs. I happened to be in the right places at the right times to urge or aid groups and individuals so they could walk through the doors. In each instance, dedicated persons with heart stepped up to help."

Mrs. Mitchum serves as volunteer coordinator of special needs at Chapelwood United Methodist Church, and is known for her work with the Circle of Friends, a teen and adult socialization, recreation and Bible study group as well as Pals' Place, a respite program for teens and their parents. She also supervises The Sunshine Room, a program for children who need a little help or a Go-Go Buddy for Sunday School. Her website www.naomimitchum.com contains her written materials to help other churches begin programs for persons with special needs.

"It gives me great pride", stated Council Member Pennington, "to see such a fine and admirable person honored by the Mayor and the City of Houston. Mrs. Mitchum has tirelessly and selflessly worked to improve the conditions and lives of disabled persons throughout the City of Houston and the State of Texas, and to make basic services more accessible to them. In this era of city governments trying to do more with less, it is nice to know there are such capable people willing to step up and help out their fellow Houstonians."

Solid Waste Donates Bikes to Lucky District G Children:



On December 22, the Houston Solid Waste Management Department teamed up with Keep Houston Beautiful and DRC, Inc. to spread holiday cheer by awarding two lucky District G children a brand new bike.

"Thanks to Director Harry Hayes, the Solid Waste Management Department, Keep Houston Beautiful, and DRC, Inc.,

for making young Desiree and Desmond's Christmas a very special one", stated Council Member Pennington. "I received very heart-warming handwritten thank you notes from both kids, and learned that both are riding their new bikes every single day. I was honored to be able to assist Solid Waste in locating deserving children in my District for this very special gift."

Energy Efficiency Incentive Program Announced

A new incentive program for commercial buildings creates financial opportunities for a greener Houston.

The City of Houston, in partnership with the GeoTechnology Research Institute/Houston Advanced Research Center (GTRI/HARC) and the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), is launching the City's first energy efficiency incentive program for commercial buildings. The Energy Efficiency Incentive Program (EEIP) will provide a financial incentive to help office building owners, property managers and tenants located in the City of Houston to reduce energy consumption and increase the economic performance of their building. The EEIP is supported with funding from the Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG).

To significantly reduce Houston's emissions of greenhouse gases and criteria air pollutants, the City is creating realistic strategies and programs, particularly in the building and transportation sectors (which combined contribute over 85 percent of the City's emissions).

The EEIP, an initiative of the recently launched Green Office Challenge, will demonstrate the utility cost savings achievable from the use of energy saving retrofits and/or operating methods in Houston's commercial office buildings. The City of Houston will commit approximately \$3 million from its EECBG as seed funding for the program. Eligible businesses and building owners may apply for funding to make permanent energy efficiency improvements to reduce utility expenses and greenhouse gases.

A certified energy manager must perform an energy audit and make energy conservation recommendations that will, at a minimum, project a 15 percent energy savings in order to be eligible for the program. The City is encouraging a further "stretch" goal of 30 percent energy savings through its Green Office Challenge initiative. The City will provide incentives to offset 20 percent of the up-front implementation costs (labor and materials), with the incentive ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000 maximum per building upon completion of the project.

At least 60 percent of the total grant incentive awards will be set aside for projects under \$500,000 and 50 percent of the grant incentive awards will be set aside for Class B and C buildings. Depending on the energy efficiency retrofit work, the balance of the up-front implementation costs are expected to be reimbursed to the building owners through the reductions in the applicant's utility costs within 18 to 48 months following implementation. The City will be measuring these savings through the end of the grant period and extrapolate the savings shown to determine the payback period.

An informational meeting for this innovative program will be held **Friday, January 21 at 9 a.m. at the Green Building Resource Center (3300 Main)**. EEIP applications will be accepted after the informational meeting. Applications can be downloaded from the Green Office Challenge website: www.houstongoc.org.



Update on Old Kendall Library

Council Member Pennington has been working with members of the Memorial Super Neighborhood and has met with the Superintendent of the Spring Branch ISD and representatives of the City's General Services Department to assist in effectuating a suitable disposition of the Old Kendall Library at 14330 Memorial Drive.

UPDATE: A non-bidding Letter Of Intent has now been signed between SBISD and the City of Houston. The price and all major terms have

been agreed upon. The deal is now in the city legal department for the Purchase and Sale Agreement to be drafted. The current estimate is that this will be brought before City Council in February or March for approval. Both the Houston City Council and the Board of SBISD have to formally approve the final agreement once drafted. There is not yet a schedule or estimate for closing, but it is likely to occur by the end of June (in this Fiscal Year).



If you would like to receive periodic emails from Mayor Annise D. Parker and the City of Houston on topics of interest to you and your neighborhood, please go to <http://www.houstontx.gov> and register with CitizensNet



3-1-1

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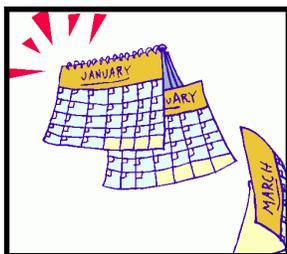
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Carol Dillon
Council Intern
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SAVE THE DATES:



February 3, 2011—Rebuild Houston Implementation Presentation:

From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the City Council Flooding & Drainage Committee will meet at the Southwest Multi-Service Center, East Side Auditorium, 6400 High Star Dr., 77074. Included in the regular Committee meeting will be a Rebuild Houston Implementation Presentation by Andy Icken, the Chief Development Officer for the City of Houston and Daniel Krueger, the Director of Public Works and Engineering, and an opportunity for public comment.

February 23, 2011—District G CIP Meeting:

From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr., 77042. This is the annual meeting held to discuss ongoing Capital Improvement Projects and to receive constituent input regarding desired CIP Projects. This year's meeting will also include a presentation from the administration on implementing Rebuild Houston (f/k/a Renew Houston/Proposition 1).

March 6, 2011—Children's Museum:

Sunday, March 6, 2011, is District G day at The Children's Museum of Houston, located at 1500 Binz. Gather your family and friends and come join Council Member Pennington for a FREE afternoon at the museum. The doors open at noon and will be open until 6:00 p.m. For more information on the Children's Museum of Houston, please visit: <http://www.cmhouston.org/>.

March 21, 2011—Community Input/Town Hall Meeting on Redistricting:

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Briargrove Elementary School, 6145 San Felipe St., 77057. Town Hall meeting for District G constituents to hear the City's plan to redraw the boundaries for all single-member District Council seats and for adding two new single-member District Council seats, and to share comments and concerns regarding the same.

March 26, 2011—Trash Bash 2011:

For the 2011 Trash Bash, Council Member Pennington is putting together a District G clean-up team. Come out Saturday, March 26, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and enjoy time with other residents working to keep District G the beautiful place we call home. The District G team will be working at the Terry Hershey Park (upper Buffalo Bayou) site sponsored by Bayou Preservation Association.

If you are interested in joining the team, please click on the City Council District G link at <http://www.houstontx.gov/volunteer/volunteernow.html>. There are many clean-up sites throughout the city. If you are interested in working at another location, there is more information at www.trashbash.org. If you have any questions, please call Christina Manero at 832-393-3270.

April 13, 2011—Public Hearing on Redistricting

9:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2nd Floor, 77002.

April 20, 2011—Public Hearing on Redistricting

9:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2nd Floor, 77002.

April 20, 2011—Public Hearing on Redistricting

7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2nd Floor, 77002.