

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Tuesday, January 12, 2010

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 12, 2010, Mayor Annise D. Parker presiding and with Council Members Brenda Stardig, Jarvis Johnson, Anne Clutterbuck, Wanda Adams, Mike Sullivan, Al Hoang, Oliver Pennington, Edward Gonzalez, James G. Rodriguez, Stephen C. Costello, Sue Lovell, Melissa Noriega, C. O. "Brad" Bradford and Jolanda "Jo" Jones; Mr. Harlan Heilman, Division Chief, Claims & Subrogation Division, Legal Department; Ms. Claudia Vasquez, Director Citizens Assistance; and Ms. Marty Stein, Agenda Director present.

At 1:52 p.m. Mayor Parker called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Adams who invited those present with Grace Community Services to stand to be recognized and invited Ms. Rue Camp to the podium; Council Member Adams stated that they met during Tropical Storm Allison and she took what she knew and is now working in the community; that Grace Community Services was founded in 2004 to provide disaster case management and education services and was the first African American case management team in the country; and presented her a Proclamation saluting and commending her and the services of Grace Community Services; and proclaimed today as "Grace Day" in Houston, Texas. Ms. Camp thanked all for the recognition and God for the opportunity; and stated she started Grace Community Services from the back of her truck after being trained by FEMA during Tropical Storm Allison; that they served ten counties in Texas; and it was a pleasure and honor to be presented the Proclamation. Council Members Sullivan and Lovell absent.

Council Member Johnson thanked the group for all the work done and stated that they brought joy to many in despair; and Ms. Camp thanked Council Member Johnson and his staff for all they did. Council Member Sullivan absent.

At 2:02 p.m. Council Member Clutterbuck invited Pastor Bill Heston with the Houston First Presbyterian Church to lead all in the prayer and Council Member Clutterbuck led in the pledge. Council Member Sullivan absent.

At 2:05 p.m. Mayor Parker requested the City Secretary call the roll. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Council Members Lovell and Hoang moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Sullivan absent. MOTION ADOPTED.

At 2:06 p.m. Mayor Parker requested the City Secretary to begin calling the public speakers. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Mr. Youssef Nafaa, 2006 Lexington, Houston, Texas 77098 (713-480-0215) appeared regarding Agenda Item 6, presented information and stated that Lexington Street had commercial property in the middle of the residential and he opposed the ordinance as it would affect the commercial property he owned and it was commercial even before he was born, it was regarding setbacks and minimum lot size and the matter was debated a long time, but neighbors did not even know what they were signing when they signed and he understood preserving the community, but this one almost all property was commercial and the ordinance was not good for their block and many other blocks. Council Members Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Mr. Rick Rogers, 8731 Winningham, Houston, Texas 77055 (713-822-4128) appeared and stated that he was present regarding Agenda Items 6 and 7 as he was opposed to the passage of both and materials were presented to Council Members offices; that he believed the petition lacked support of the petitioners and the action was a recapture; that the ordinance pertained to

just the 21 lots within the one block and if it was a community then it should be done citywide, so they needed to think about just the 21 properties; that 12 people signed the petition and none of which were present today, that was how supportive they were, two who signed the petition said they signed it because they could and was told they would not have townhouses, but 61% of the block was commercial and they would always have the possibility of commercial; that property rights were all they had. Council Members Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Mr. Moustapha El-Hakam, 1950 Lexington, Houston, Texas 77098 (281-804-2412) appeared regarding Agenda Items 6 and 7 and stated that he was president of Richwood Place Civic Association and he owned property on Lexington; that most of what Council needed to rely on was already dealt with by the Planning Commission, they had extensive backup on their Agenda items and it showed they clearly met criteria the city put forth for the granting of the designation minimum lot size and minimum building line; that notions compounded by Mr. Rogers indicating the area was all commercial was misleading them; that they lived in a jewel, a historic neighborhood with the majority being residential in character; that people wanted certainty and did not want the lot sizes divided up; that the two opposing them did not live on the block as they did; that they supported it strongly and urged Councils support. Council Members Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Council Member Adams thanked all for coming and speaking on the item; and stated that she thanked Planning who worked hard to make sure their quality of life continued to be protected; and that a provision was made to make sure Mr. Nafaa's restaurant could be built back to the way it was. Council Members Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Council Member Jones stated that the more dense the city became the more problems there would be; that this was a wonderful balance between residents maintaining a quality of life and businesses; and she did support them and the process. Council Members Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Mr. Steven Morgan, 5207 Lymbar Drive, Houston, Texas 77096 (713-729-7151) appeared and stated that he lived in Meyerland and was present to discuss a problem presented to Council nearly a decade ago; that in 2001 a Meyerland resident spoke to Council about standing water in the 5200 block of Lymbar and in 2002 he purchased a home there and the street has grown progressively worse; that in 2004 he contacted Council Member Goldberg and he assisted getting Public Works to go out, assess and provide a solution by mud jacking a certain portion to get the water to drain; that in 2005 and in 2006 the street continued to sink and he contacted Council Member Clutterbuck for assistance and she informed him the Public Works Department could no longer alleviate the problem and the entire street needed to be repaired and he then got signatures of over 89% of the owners in the 5200 block to sign the petition for reconstruction and it was filed with the city in 2007; that the street was not level and water would pond across the entire street and it was a year round safety hazard for mosquitoes, etc., it seemed the city was showing a reckless disregard for the residents and concerned citizens had been proactive and stepped up to address the problem and they would like city officials to do the same. Council Members Johnson and Sullivan absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck thanked Mr. Morgan for appearing again before Council and stated that she completely understood his frustration; that she had been trying to help resolve the matter since she became Council Member and as he said Council Member Goldberg was able to get the street mud jacked, but the street sunk again and that was not available and NSR was the only approach; that Public Works in the last year had been out to that block over 14 times and had done all they could; that the petition process was the only means they had to address this and she was delighted the block had petitioned for it and perhaps they could find out for him where on the NSR petition list they were, Mr. Drabek was present and could speak

with him at this time and then could let her office know the information as well. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Pennington, on a point of personal privilege, stated that Troop 320, a Christian Home School Troop located in Katy, Texas, with members from the west side of Houston were present today working on their Citizenship and Community Merit Badge; and asked that they stand to be recognized. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Ms. Yvonne Killings, 16514 Province Lane, Houston, Texas 77020 (713-703-9300) appeared and stated that she was with Libra Enterprises and present with two concerns, first was disregarding the initial manufacturers for the compostable bags required by the City of Houston's Code of Ordinances; that to her knowledge the city did not solicit any local manufacturers for the manufacturing of the compostable bags; that she understood a decision was made to solicit manufacturers who serviced the state of California; that she wanted to bring to their attention a certified minority woman owned manufacturer was located in Houston, Libra Enterprises, Inc., of which she was co-owner and CEO, that she was informed she could have her bags inspected and approved to solicit shelf space at varying retail stores, but her disappointment was it came about 18 months after the original selected manufacturers had opportunity to place their products in stores and she would like to know how serious the city was when it came to utilizing minority businesses and suggest they work closely with community partners such as the Greater Houston Partnership and the Houston Minority Business Supplier Development Council to assist them when sourcing for businesses; that secondly she had also responded to RFP's bidding alternative compostable products but was advised the bid was awarded to the lowest dollar amount and not best value, one had a request for a 25% compostable or recyclable bag and it was impossible to have a 25% compostable bag, what happened to the other 75%, you were either compostable or plastic; that she wanted to know what the percentage of commitment was that the City of Houston had towards a green effort and based on the percentage of commitment what place did compostable or sustainable products have in the commitment and at what point would divisions, etc., be mandated to use such products when available. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Jones stated to the Administration was there or not a competitive bid for the manufacturer; and Mayor Parker stated that there were a number of manufacturers supplying such bags and they were available at a number of different sites around the city; that the rollout of the program was postponed until April so there was time for additional vendors to get their bags into retail establishments. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Pennington stated that there were multiple manufacturers and his office received a number of calls on the issue and had done research and he found a bag with the city seal on it; that this was an important issue and they should try and get the most viable bag at the cheapest price; and Mayor Parker stated that the standards did require the city seal on the bag and it was a uniform bag, but they hoped competition would bring the price down; that regarding city departments using the bags, they pretty much mulched everything, all trimmings through the Parks Department. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Hoang, Ms. Killings stated that her first point was the manufacturers of the compostable bags and she met with Mr. Chen and Mr. Zilton who were in charge of the program and they advised her there was no RFP which went out for solicitation, they went to a database of vendors to find a green vendor; secondly, the city was not using compostable bags, there was an RFP presented in late December and cancelled yesterday and the Airport System was to be the end user of the bags and on several line items they said they wanted 25% of the plastic bag compostable or recycled material and it was impossible to have a 25% compostable bag; and Council Member Hoang stated that Mr. Hayes, Director of Solid

Waste, said bags used now were compostable 100% and her comments had confused him; and Ms. Killings stated that there were no compostable bags being used in the City of Houston. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Adams moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending the time for questions of Ms. Yvonne Killings, seconded by Council Member Jones. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent. MOTION 2010-0013 ADOPTED.

Council Member Adams thanked Ms. Killings for coming and stated that during the time she was a civilian employee with the City of Houston they started with the pilot program for the bags and she and another Solid Waste member picked three companies that could sustain the products they were collecting and now two years later they were at this point; that it had not been an easy task and she applauded Mr. Hayes for coming up with this vision and Mr. Zilton was present to discuss this with her; that she wished they would have know her company at that time, but hopefully this was a new beginning. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Bradford stated that he would withdraw his request to speak as he would like to meet with Ms. Killings and his staff person would meet with her to set a time for the two of them. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Jones, Mayor Parker stated that she did not know if there was a competitive bid at the beginning, but did know there were multiple manufacturers for the bags and they were looking for more vendors who wanted to meet the city standards for the bags as they believed competition would drive the prices down and there were opportunities for others to enter into this process and the whole reason of a compostable bag, she was right, you did not want a bag 25% compostable, you wanted the whole bag to compost because they went to the vendor who took the city's lawn clippings. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Adams stated that she wanted to make sure she received information from Mr. Zilton; and she wanted Council Members to know that Ms. Killings was offered opportunity to bring her bags and have them tested. Council Members Johnson, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Council Member Hoang stated that his office was happy to have an appointment with Ms. Killings so they could learn of her product, they wanted to assist her in anyway proper and legally with the city; and he would like an appointment with her. Council Members Johnson, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Mr. Theodore Johnson, 3318 Carnell, Houston, Texas 77022 (713-861-7943) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Mr. Isiaka Owolabi, 7447 Neal Ridge, Missouri City, Texas 77489 (832-880-0512) appeared and stated that on October 29, 2009, he had an accident and two police officers did an accident report and said he hit the other party, but he did not, they hit him; that he told them they were speeding and the impact totaled him; that he had a passenger with him and they did not talk to him, they only talked to the passenger of the other party; and because of that he went to Internal Affairs and the lady said she could not put it in writing for him and his lawyer told him to go back to her and he did and she said she would put it in writing, but he was still waiting; that there were many prosecutions against him in this city and he needed Council's help; that he

did not have a single crime and he went to church. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that it sounded like there was an accident investigation and if there was he would have access to the report, he needed to go to 1200 Travis and obtain a copy; that he mentioned Internal Affairs and perhaps the investigator was investigating, but it sounded like he needed to take it up with HPD and Lieutenant Gallier was present and could speak with him at this time. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Rodriguez and Lovell absent.

Council Member Jones stated that often with accident reports they did supplements and she would be curious to know that after viewing the accident report did someone believe something was left out, she would like to know if a supplement could be put in such as a statement from the passenger present, it would be relevant and a jury may say if it was not in the report maybe someone was lying; and felt that should be dealt with. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Rodriguez and Lovell absent.

Mayor Parker stated that if Mr. Owolabi would visit with Lieutenant Gallier and they would try and assist him in following up. Council Members Johnson, Rodriguez and Lovell absent.

Mr. Derrick Ervin, 5431 Sonora, Houston, Texas 77020 (713-671-0246) appeared and stated that he was present regarding his elderly aunt who was blind and poor and now homeless due to a \$10.00 warranty deed, an individual befriended her to sign a \$10.00 warranty deed and to steal a home in Houston it took three individuals, a notary, realtor and lawyer; the lawyer who was a part of the conspiracy was now wanting to be a judge; that nothing was in place to help them and he had 10 adverse liens the individuals had to take property; that he had an appointment with Mr. Money yesterday with Financial Crimes and he was a no show and the biggest holdup in getting this prosecuted was the fact HPD needed to pass it on to Mrs. Williford, a supervisor of Financial Crimes in the Harris County DA's Office; and urged assistance. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Mayor Parker stated that Lieutenant Gallier would be glad to meet with him; that financial crimes against the elderly were unfortunately a problem in the city and she was glad he brought this forward. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that someone from his staff did contact Mr. Ervin today and they would be visiting with him at the conclusion of these comments; that as the Mayor stated Lieutenant Gallier would be assisting to see how they could navigate through this and make sure the police report was filed and what evidence was required and how they could follow-up with the District Attorney's Office and see if any charges were applicable and if not what other means he perhaps would have available; and Mr. Ervin stated that the only way Harris County would take this would be after HPD did their investigation and this had gone on since October and he supplied all that was needed; and Council Member Gonzalez stated that they would follow-up and make sure he received his response. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Mr./Coach R. J. (Bobby) Taylor, 3107 Sumpter, Houston, Texas 77026 (292-FA3-4511) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Dr. Jose Javier Gallisa, 808 Kentucky, South Houston, Texas 77587 (713-962-6385) appeared, presented information and stated that April 30<sup>th</sup> he had an accident due to a stop sign incorrectly installed; that the accident occurred in the corner of 7600 South Loop East; that he was turning left and understood he was in the right and was completely confused when Mr. Molina, the other driver, said he did not have a stop sign, but his stop sign was facing the wrong

way; that officer C. W. Roger wrote the preliminary report and he showed the officer the stop sign and the officer said he could file a claim with the City of Houston; and the Municipal Courts ordered a dismissal of his case. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Mayor Parker stated that the area he discussed was under control of the Texas Department of Transportation and not the City of Houston so he would need to make any claims to the state and Mr. Drabek was present and could help address it with him. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Ms. Thelma Jackson, 2726 Lower Valley Drive, Houston, Texas 77067 (281-866-7492) appeared and stated that she was a City of Houston employee for 12 years now and at the moment had been off work 8 1/2 months; that she was not able to do her current job position and when going to the round table her HOPE representatives talked but they were trying to separate her; that she put in 25 plus applications but the city said they were not obligated to help her find a position under the ADA Act, that she was now at the last stage with the city wanting to separate her and after 12 years and at the round table they did not really want to hear what she had to say. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Mayor Parker stated that a letter was pending for medical separation from the City of Houston and she saw it would be referred to the Civil Service Commission because she was disputing the decision, but she was already in the process and did not know if there was any action Council would need to be taking today. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Bradford stated that Ms. Jackson was appealing her suspension or indefinite leave; and upon questions, Ms. Jackson stated that was correct; that before the medical separation process started she had been applying for positions since March of last year, 25 plus positions; and Council Member Bradford thanked Ms. Jackson for her service and stated that he would like to follow-up with her after the Civil Service hearing because that process had to run its course. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Mr. Roy Grant, 8009 Carolwood, Houston, Texas 77028 (713-635-4914) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Mr. Lorenca Phillips Butler, Jr., 3906 Daphne, Houston, Texas 77021 (713-440-6994) appeared and stated that Monday, January 18, 2010, the North Houston Frontiers 22 board members would host the 22<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Breakfast at the George R. Brown Convention Center at 8:15 a.m. and 1,500 attendees along with Mayor Parker and Council Members, but not all had RSVP; that they were a nonprofit organization and he hoped all would attend. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Adams thanked Mr. Butler for all he did and his commitment and dedication to the community. Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez absent.

Ms. Nia Colbert, 955 Langwick Drive #2311, Houston, Texas 77060 (281-873-0359) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Johnson, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Ms. Catherine Shorter, 5955 Ridgeway, Houston, Texas 77033 (713-734-3683) appeared and stated that she was the president of the South Park Civic Club and present to speak about Edgewood Park; that most of her questions were answered, but she still had questions about the trees on Wayside and Mykawa Road, they were small now, but after being developed they would not be able to see and it was a main thoroughfare; that Council Member Adams was

helping, but they would like it and the park taken care of at a faster pace. Council Members Johnson, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Council Member Adams thanked Ms. Shorter for all she did; and stated that she was a true leader; that she knew she had met with Mr. Daniel Pederson with Parks and regarding her question about the trees she would ask Mr. Pederson meet with her again. Council Members Johnson, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

The City Secretary stated that Mr. Theodore Johnson was not present when his name was called, but was now present and would be called to speak after Ms. Myers. Council Members Johnson, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Ms. Lois Myers, 9701 Westview Drive, Houston, Texas 77055 (713-461-7447) appeared and stated that she was speaking as a homeowner in Spring Branch where she lived 33 years; that she was present regarding the devastating flood last April, it affected hundreds of homes and those across from her had not moved back yet; that this flood could have been avoided they felt because it was manmade; that there was a contract they brought to the attention of TIRZ 17, Memorial City and Town and Country, which stated there should be two detention ponds two north and two south of I-10 which were put into effect in 2003 by the contract which would expire the 17th of this month; that they were asking Council to please review it and extend it until something was done to put the detention ponds in so they would not flood again; that the TIRZ said they did not know of a contract, then said it was not a contract, but lawyers had said it was a contract and it was enforceable and instead of getting into costly litigation they were hoping the city would work with them, fix this, get the detention ponds in and fix it before they flooded again. Council Members Johnson, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Council Member Jones stated that she was working with a group of affected homeowners quite a while and had gone to the TIRZ 17 meetings, management district meetings and school district meetings to try and get a handle on it; that people had come in advance showing pictures and saying what was being done was going to flood the area and it did in April; that this was a big issue and it was one of the reasons she asked the Mayor to please put her on the Flooding and Drainage Committee; and TITZ 17 needed to be looked at also because of the way she saw citizens treated there, it was embarrassing. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she was sure Chairman Costello would schedule an overall briefing of flooding issues soon and certainly had the discretion to take up this issue. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Council Member Pennington stated that he had attended a number of the meetings and it was a complex issue because they had Harris County Flood Control District, TIRZ, City of Houston, TXDOT and discharges into Buffalo Bayou the province of the Corps of Engineers and the Harris County Flood Control District; that he thought it was a local problem until he attended a meeting where they talked about it being a reservoir usage problem, etc., and the TIRZ funded a study for 2,000 acres because there were so many entities involved, but he understood they were making a start on it. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Council Member Costello stated that as the chairman of the Drainage and Flood Committee they had his commitment a further look would be given to it; that he would like a copy of the contract first and they would move on it, but there were extenuating circumstances, a number of agencies were involved, and being a drainage and flooding specialist which was his private practice he looked forward to following up on that for her; and Ms. Myers thanked Council Member Costello and stated that 5 engineering firms said they should have detention

ponds; and she would be glad to get all Council Members a copy of the contract. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Council Member Jones moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending the time for questions of Ms. Lois Meyers, seconded by Council Member Costello. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson Sullivan, Rodriguez and Noriega absent. MOTION 2010 0014 ADOPTED.

Council Member Stardig stated that she wanted to reiterate the fact it was a complex issue and she worked on it quite some time while on the TIRZ Board; that she could assure them the TIRZ members worked as volunteers diligently on the issue and were very concerned about flooding in the Spring Branch/Memorial area and they did appreciate support of Council Members and she looked forward to working on the committee as well. Council Members Johnson Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Jones stated that it was a complex issue with all the municipalities mentioned involved and playing different roles; that the City of Houston did have control over City of Houston things and her fundamental problem was when they went and made an exception to city required detention and retention based on letters; that they had to control what they controlled and do a better job of it; and Ms. Myers stated that they needed to find why the exemptions were made when it was put in place. Council Members Johnson Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Mr. Theodore Johnson, 3318 Carnell, Houston, Texas 77022 (713-861-7943) who was not present when his name was previously called was now present and appeared and stated that he was present to talk on economic promotion; that they were ready to put this thing in motion if Council was sincere about the whole outlet; that he was not here to play and would be using KCOH as a way to communicate with the community and television to give image to the community and they would know if Council meant business because they would promote their own Swing Party ; that they were ready to ask the city for a hundred million to match community funds; that jobs were promoted in different speculation. Mayor Parker, Council Members Johnson Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent. Mayor Pro Tem Clutterbuck presiding.

President Joseph Charles, P. O. Box 524373, Houston, Texas 77052-4373 (no phone number given) appeared and stated that he was requesting more time to speak; that he was the president of the U. S.; and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired. Council Members Johnson Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

Ms. Mary Taylor, 1403 Fashion Hill Drive, Houston, Texas 77088 (281-445-0682) appeared and stated that she was present on the same subject she appeared on for a year or so, projects not yet done; parkland since 1983 that they wanted a building equal to a YMCA for Willow Run, Hidden Valley and other surrounding communities; that they wanted their hike and bike trails east of White Oak Bayou which had been granted. Council Members Johnson Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

Coach Dan Hart, 71 Hilbury Drive, Houston, Texas 77024 (713-781-2867) appeared, presented information and stated that all should look up Article 8 Section 20, no property of any kind should ever be taxed over 100% of the value; that the way the directors operated and instructions given to the Chief Appraiser did not help the appraisal system, an absentee appraiser was not the way to be; that he would strive to establish a uniform, self appraisal form which all could use to lower their taxes. Council Members Johnson Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.



Mr. James Partsch-Galvan, 1611 Holman, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-528-2607) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Johnson Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

At 3:25 p.m. City Council recessed until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 13, 2010. Council Members Johnson Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 13, 2010, with Mayor Annise D. Parker presiding and with Council Members Brenda Stardig, Jarvis Johnson, Anne Clutterbuck, Wanda Adams, Mike Sullivan, Al Hoang, Oliver Pennington, Edward Gonzalez, James G. Rodriguez, Stephen C. Costello, Sue Lovell, Melissa Noriega, C. O. "Brad" Bradford and Jolanda "Jo" Jones; Mr. Anthony Hall, Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office; Ms. Susan Taylor, Deputy City Attorney, Ms. Marty Stein, Agenda Director and Ms. Marta Crinejo., Assistant Agenda Director, present.

At 8:26 a.m. City Secretary read the descriptions or captions of items on the Agenda.

At 9:02 a.m. Mayor Parker called the meeting to order. Council Members Johnson, Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Parker stated that she would have a quick Mayor's report, that several of them had asked about the transition teams that she had named and she wanted to give them an idea of where she was going with that, that they were in eight subject areas and she had essentially named the co-chairs and had given them some potential committee members but had also asked them to go out and recruit their own committees, that her concern was that they get to the information as rapidly as possible and she had also given them a very short time frame which was to come back by the end of February and report, that only one of the transition teams was looking at something outside of the City of Houston and she had a transition team looking at Metro and Metro operations, which was something that she had committed to during the course of her campaign, that the chair of that team was George Greanis and he was assisted by four co-chairs over the various subject areas, Eric Boda, Jim Moncur, Allen Watson and Theldon Branch, that she had asked them to look at various aspects of Metro from the financing to the bus service, which was Metro Lift to the routing to light rail and both issues with the proposed rail lines and any lingering issues with the current rail line, that if they had a particular issue or concern that they wanted to make sure that the transition team addressed if they would shoot her the question she would forward it over to Greanis or they could contact him directly because if they were going to be meeting and gathering information she wanted to make it relative to them as well, that she did tell her transition teams that she did not expect them to go out and write long dissertations, that what she wanted was short and concise presentations and if they needed to generate more in depth work in the areas that they were overseeing that they needed to come back and report that and she would send them out again, that several Council Members had suggested members of some of these teams and she appreciated that, that in addition to Metro they were looking at Public Works and both overall and how they coordinated major capital projects in a time of shrinking budgets as well as the permitting process, that there were two different teams in permitting not because she thought they had particular problems in permitting and knew that Mayor White spent a good bit of time and energy improving that, but because they were consolidating all of their permitting operations into a single facility and she wanted to make sure that they get it right before they got it hardwired into the new facility and there were folks eager to look at that; that looking at Housing and Community Development, former Council Member Peter Brown was chairing that along with Rudy Rasmus, Pastor of Saint Johns Church downtown which had a major outreach to the homeless and she wanted to make sure that in addition to looking at best practices from around the Country on housing and taking

the information from several audits of the Housing Department that they also address how the Housing Department and their efforts coordinate with the homeless, that while she was on the subject she wanted to congratulate Anthony Love who had been the Director of the Coalition of the Homeless for sometime had been tapped to go to Washington, that President Obama had lured him away from Houston so they were going to have to fill a gap, he had done good work for them, so that was two in Public Works, Metro and Housing; that as to Neighborhood Protection, which was something that was of particular importance to District Council Members, that there was the recent Boozen Company Study that new Council Members may not have seen, it was put out, she believed in December but there was a template for going forward but she had asked that her transition team look at taking that Boozen Company report and if there were any ordinance changes that were needed to facilitate things like aggressive demolition of derelict properties, tweaking any of their current policies on illegal dumping, tires, all of the things that they got their calls on they wanted to make sure that happened and she knew that Assistant Chief Curran was eager to work with that committee, that she would circulate, if she had not already, a list of the transition teams to them and the co-chairs so if they wanted to weigh in with them about aspects of what they were doing they would have the opportunity to do that; that there was a ninth transition team, and as many of them knew Arturo Michel, City Attorney, had indicated long before the election that he was planning on leaving City government regardless of who the next Mayor was and she knew that he had a placement with a law firm and was looking forward to that transition and she had begun to assemble a transition team to help her vet City Attorneys and just to put out what she was looking for, that the City Legal Department was a fairly large law firm and they knew that lawyers went into law because they wanted to be lawyers and not because they wanted to be managers but what they needed was someone who had the skill set to manage a large law firm, that she would say that she was hearing from some really great litigators but she also needed to hear from some managers and was going to refer those resumes over and would welcome input on that. Council Members Johnson, Adams and Hoang absent.

Council Member Sullivan stated that he would like to get a list of the transition teams and also if they could receive a schedule of the meetings that the transition teams had so that his staff or himself could sit on them, and Mayor Parker stated that she named the co-chairs and gave them some suggested committee members and told them to go forth and have their own meetings at their own schedules, that these were not public bodies and their task was to go out and gather information and report back to her, so it would be on an individual basis, not that they were having secret meetings but she did not have a schedule of their meetings and was not in charge of that and did not intend to be, so she would offer around the Council the list of the transition teams and the co-chairs and the members that she was aware of at this point, but as she said she also empowered them to recruit their own members and Council Member Sullivan may contact them individually for issues or information, and Council Member Sullivan stated that he appreciated that and as he told her when they met privately she was the Mayor and he was a Council Member and he got that, but he also would like to make sure that the voices of the people that he represented were given an opportunity to be heard, that he was somewhat of a not necessarily always top down driven guy and would like to have an opportunity to participate if he so chose, and Mayor Parker stated that it was not an aspect that she was the Mayor and he was the Council Member, these were transition teams to advise her on what she needed to know as the incoming Mayor and as they produced reports and made suggestions she would bring those forward to Council and it was not a process in any way to go around Council, which was why she was very clear that she asked people to chair these committees and was not in any way restricting or constraining what they bring back to her. Council Member Adams absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she was very appreciative that Mayor Parker would be bringing these reports back to Council, that there were a number of things that got published in the press, for example the issue of bio degradable garbage bags and having an

update in the midst of the transition was always very helpful; that of the nine transition teams she did not mention anything for public safety, and knew that she was working diligently on that and for the public asked if Mayor Parker could highlight where they were on a new police chief or what that transition team looked like, and Mayor Parker stated that there was not a transition team in the search for a new chief, and appreciated Council Member Clutterbuck asking the question, that she met personally with outgoing Chief Hurtt and had a really productive and professional discussion and appreciated his courtesy, that she had met with the four Executive Assistant Chiefs and thought she had three more Assistant Chiefs left to meet with, that once she got through with all of the individual meetings and taking their guidance and input she would move forward, that she had also met with HPOU and solicited their input on a new chief and met with HPPU, the smaller union, for the same reasons, that she would be bringing in a consultant from PERF, Police Executive Research Forum, which was a law enforcement think tank and was sure that Council Member Bradford was very familiar with PERF and they would help devise the list of interview questions that she would ask each candidate for chief to reply to, that she was at this point looking internally and if she was not comfortable with the responses that she gets internally than she would broaden her search, but believed that they could find a new chief within HPD, they had some excellent candidates, that it would be up to the Police Department to decide who wanted to apply for the job, she was not going to limit the selection process to those candidates who she thought were most qualified, she was going to give an open offer to the members of the command staff to apply and they would vet them there. Council Member Adams absent.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he heard Mayor Parker mention Public Works as one of her transition teams, and asked if she could tell them her thoughts on CIP, the process, that they had several civic clubs making the rounds after the new year asking about when they were going to hold meetings and the process, and Mayor Parker stated that she would certainly wait to see what the transition team comes up with, that she did not task them with changing the CIP process, what she asked them to do was try to figure out how their money could go further because she was very concerned that they were going to have difficulty funding existing CIP projects and they needed to look at regional coordination, many of them campaigned on issues dealing with flooding and she trusted that after they came back and briefed her they would also sit down with Council Member Costello to see if there were suggestions that they could make to see how best to deal with some of these regional CIP issues, and Council Member Rodriguez stated that he guessed for scheduling purposes was it safe to say that they would still have meetings in February and March, was that the plan, and Mayor Parker stated yes, that she was not at all planning on changing the CIP scheduling process for Council Members and the public. Council Member Lovell absent.

Council Member Jones asked if Mayor Parker could give them an update of where she was going with the Fire Department, and Mayor Parker stated that she had no active transition teams dealing with the Fire Department right now, that she had met with the Chief and with the union and would consider her options. Council Member Lovell absent.

At 9:16 a.m. Mayor Parker stated that they would go to the consent agenda. Council Member Lovell absent.

### **CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 17**

#### **PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS** - NUMBERS 2 through 5

2. ORDINANCE appropriating \$907,225.00 out of Equipment Acquisition Consolidated Fund for Purchase of Ambulance and Squad Cabs & Chassis and Ambulance Cab & Chassis Mounted with a Modular Body for the Houston Fire Department – was presented. All

voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0014 ADOPTED.

- 2a. **KNAPP CHEVROLET, INC** for Ambulance and Squad Cabs & Chassis and an Ambulance Cab & Chassis Mounted with a Modular Body for the Houston Fire Department – was presented, moved by Council Member Clutterbuck, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. MOTION 2010-0015 ADOPTED.
4. **TECHNICAL COMMUNITIES, INC (d.b.a. TESTMART)** to purchase additional Vidshield and Riskshield Software, Licenses, Maintenance, Training and Installation Services from the General Services Administration Schedule 70 Contract through the Cooperative Purchasing Program for Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security - \$399,649.00 - Federal Grant Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Clutterbuck, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. MOTION 2010-0016 ADOPTED.
5. APPROVE spending authority to purchase Automotive Tires and Tubes from the State of Texas Procurement and Support Services Contract through the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program for Various Departments, awarded to **AMERICAN TIRE DISTRIBUTORS, INC - HOUSTON** - \$3,679,701.93 - General Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Clutterbuck, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. MOTION 2010-0017 ADOPTED.

**ORDINANCES** - NUMBERS 8 through 17

8. ORDINANCE disannexing certain area located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Houston in Harris County, Texas - **DISTRICT E – SULLIVAN** - had been pulled from the Agenda by the Administration, and was not considered. Council Member Lovell absent.
9. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Automobile Rental Concession Agreement and an Operator Agreement by and between the City of Houston and **SIMPLY WHEELZ, LLC d/b/a ADVANTAGE RENT-A-CAR** at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston - Revenue **DISTRICT B - JOHNSON** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0015 ADOPTED.
11. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Lease Agreement for twelve (12) months between **LAMESA VILLAGE, LIMITED, A Texas Limited Partnership, Landlord**, and the City of Houston, Texas, Tenant, for a parcel of land to be developed as a public parking lot at 2400 Bolsover Street, Houston, Harris County, Texas, at a monthly rental equal to the parking revenues received less certain startup and recurring costs - **DISTRICT C - CLUTTERBUCK** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0016 ADOPTED.
13. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2007-991 (Passed by City Council August 8, 2007) to increase the maximum contract amount; approving and authorizing second amendment to contract between the City and **VIDSYS, INC** for Professional Consulting Services for the City's Public Safety Video Initiative - \$220,000.00 - Federal Grant Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0017 ADOPTED.
14. ORDINANCE appropriating \$29,200.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund as an additional appropriation to the Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **UNITED ENGINEERS, INC** for Buffalo Bayou Trail

Shepherd to Sabine (Approved by Ordinance No. 2001-1104) - **DISTRICTS D - ADAMS; H - GONZALEZ and I - RODRIGUEZ** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0018 ADOPTED.

15. ORDINANCE appropriating \$1,712,512.23 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund; de-appropriating \$538,807.74 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund which was appropriated under Ordinance 2002-0303 and re-appropriating \$538,807.74 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund; approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **LANDTECH CONSULTANTS, INC** for Tanner Road from Hempstead Highway to Beltway 8 - **DISTRICT A - STARDIG** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0019 ADOPTED.
16. ORDINANCE appropriating \$44,722.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund as an additional appropriation to Professional Engineering Services Contract with **SES HORIZON CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC** for Safe Sidewalk Program (Approved by Ordinance No. 2006-0254) - **DISTRICTS C - CLUTTERBUCK; D - ADAMS; F - HOANG and G - PENNINGTON** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0020 ADOPTED.
17. ORDINANCE No. 2009-1393, passed second reading January 6, 2010  
ORDINANCE granting authority to **SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P., A Delaware Limited Partnership**, the right, privilege and franchise to use the public way of the City of Houston, Texas, for the purpose of laying, constructing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, modifying, removing, using, and operating therein, network facilities for providing authorized services; providing for related terms and conditions; containing a repealer; and making certain findings related to the foregoing subject - **THIRD AND FINAL READING** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2009-1393 ADOPTED THIRD AND FINAL READING IN FULL.

## **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

### **PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS**

1. **AMEND MOTION #2007-133, 2/7/07, TO INCREASE** spending authority from \$505,093.95 to \$631,367.44, for Veterinary Supplies for Administration & Regulatory Affairs Department, awarded to **WEBSTER VETERINARY** - \$126,273.49 - General Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Clutterbuck, seconded by Council Member Sullivan. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. MOTION 2010-0018 ADOPTED.
3. **MARKETING SALES CONCEPTS, INC (MSCI)** for Contraceptive Devices for Houston Department of Health & Human Services - \$495,000.00 - Federal Grant Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Clutterbuck, seconded by Council Member Noriega. Council Member Sullivan voting no, balance voting aye. Council Member Lovell absent. MOTION 2010-0019 ADOPTED.

### **ORDINANCES**

6. ORDINANCE establishing the north side of the 1900-2000 block of Lexington Avenue within the City of Houston as a special building line requirement area pursuant to Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas - **DISTRICT D - ADAMS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0021 ADOPTED.

7. ORDINANCE establishing the north side of the 1900-2000 block of Lexington Avenue within the City of Houston as a special minimum lot size requirement area pursuant to Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas - **DISTRICT D - ADAMS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0022 ADOPTED.
10. ORDINANCE relating to the Fiscal Affairs of the **LELAND WOODS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY on behalf of REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER TWENTY-TWO, CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS (LELAND WOODS ZONE)**; approving the Fiscal Year 2010 Operating Budget for the Authority - **DISTRICT B – JOHNSON** – was presented. Council Member Lovell absent.

Council Member Johnson stated that he wanted to reiterate the importance of Leland Woods, that it was a TIRZ that they had been trying to get some increment for a very long time, that he hoped and knew that judging by the fact that it was on the agenda that they were keeping a very close eye on it, that as they moved forward they had talked about getting some new board members on to insure that they were infusing some new ideas and new energy into that board, that he had been in conversation with Tim and wanted to be able to get a new board put in place so that they could move forward with hopefully looking at how they begin to do some new development in that area, that they all knew what that development would mean to the northeast area of town, that he wanted to thank Mayor Parker for making sure that it continued to be on their agenda and as he continued to work they wanted to make sure that they were looking to get new and better development in that area, and Mayor Parker stated that it was a critical project for his district and she knew of his interest and would make sure that he had input of how the board went forward.

A vote was called on Item No. 10. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2010-0023 ADOPTED.

12. ORDINANCE approving, authorizing submittal of an application to the **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS** for Texas Homeless Housing and Services Program (“TXHHSP”) Funds in the amount of \$5,756,053.00; the acceptance of the TXHHSP Funds, if awarded – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. ORDINANCE 2010-0024 ADOPTED.

#### **NON CONSENT AGENDA** – NUMBER 18

Mayor Parker recognized Council Member Lovell for a moment of personal privilege.

Council Member Lovell stated that Lee McGuire was leaving Channel 11 to move to Boston and wanted to make sure they had an opportunity to wish him well and to tell him that they were going to miss seeing him around and to say what a really good reporter he had been.

Council Members Clutterbuck, Jones and Adams congratulated Mr. McGuire and wished him well on his move to Boston.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

18. **MOTION TO SET A DATE** not less than seven (7) days from January 13, 2010, to receive nominations for Positions One, Two and Two Alternate At-Large Positions of the **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, for one-year terms to expire December 31, 2010 – was presented.

Council Member Lovell moved to set Wednesday, January 20, 2010 to receive nominations for Positions One, Two and Two Alternate At-Large Positions of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors, seconded by Council Member Clutterbuck. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2010-0020 ADOPTED.

### **MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Council Member Gonzalez stated that he wanted to send his condolences to those impacted and who lost their lives in the earthquake in Haiti and obviously supportive of the Haitian Community in the City that was now beginning support efforts to support Haiti.

Mayor Parker stated that if they received information about where to send donations or anything they would distribute it.

Council Member Hoang stated that he wanted to thank Mayor Pro Tem Clutterbuck for hosting them in an open discussion with the new Council Members so that they would be acquainted to the procedures, that he appreciated that; that he wanted to thank the Houston Fire Department, that in the last two days they were in his district on Wilcrest to fight a huge fire, that he appreciated them for their great services; that he wanted to thank all of the department heads who came to his office and had met with him, Mr. Celli, Mr. Hayes and Mr. Dadoush, that they came and helped them understand the process of the City and also to coordinate; that this coming Monday was the Sixteenth Annual Martin Luther King Grand Parade in downtown and he was honored by Mr. Charles Stamps, the host of this event, who had asked him to be the Co-Grand Marshall and would invite all of them to come on Monday, January 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., that the parade would be on Allen Parkway and Taft Street.

Council Member Pennington stated that he would like to echo Council Member Hoang's thanks to Mayor Parker and the department heads for making the offer to meet with him, that he had met with the same gentlemen that Council Member Hoang had and they had been very helpful and passed along information that they needed and they began a dialog and they listened to his opinions to which was important to him based on his campaign and his ideas; that the fire that was at the Lakeside Place Apartments on Wilcrest near Riverview night before last he wanted to give kudos to the self help of the residents who called the Fire Department and they responded, that various units responded and the Red Cross was also on hand, that the owners of the apartments were doing their best to make other units available to the residents, that it was nice to see that the system was working in such a tough situation. Council Member Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated that since they mentioned the Fire Department and the efforts over the weekend she wanted to compliment their Emergency Management System, that they activated in advance of what they thought would be really severe weather in Houston and got a nice run through with a lot of cold but not the icy conditions that they had anticipated but it was a good test and run through of how the system would work, that they went up on Thursday afternoon and she communicated with Judge Ed Emmett, their Emergency Management System went up on Thursday morning and TxDOT actually went out and sprayed the highways and fortunately they did not have the icing but they all got a good test of their ability to respond to a severe icing emergency and a lot of messages went out about use of open flames and space heaters during the cold weather conditions here in Houston and she appreciated how everybody throughout the City executed very effectively, that some of them may have heard that the only problem they had in the City of Houston was that one of the boilers went out in the City jail and those were very old boilers, that Mr. Dadoush mobilized and they got some temporary heaters and kept their prisoners at a semi comfortable condition at the jail, but overall they came through it very well and she wanted to compliment their City employees for that.

Council Member Jones stated that she knew when Mayor Parker ran to be Mayor she had a grassroots campaign and she was extremely pleased to hear from various transition members that she had invited to be on her transmission teams for the various areas who were absolutely grassroots so she was thankful to see that Mayor Parker was going to some non usual suspects to help her come up with policies for the City, so if the way she had been Mayor for the last two weeks was any indication of where she would be in the future she thought that she would potentially be the greatest Mayor that Houston had ever had. Council Member Lovell absent.

Council Member Costello stated that he wanted to take the opportunity to say that this Sunday was the thirty eighth running of the Houston Marathon and it was truly one of the most incredible events that they had in the City, not because he was participating, but because it was truly one, that it was actually ranked twentieth in the Country and had come along way in thirty eight years, that he would give them a little bit of facts about the marathon, that currently the ninth running of the half marathon and the ninth running of the kids small run a total of 26,000 people would participate in all three events, which was truly incredible, that he wanted to personally thank the Texas Children's Hospital, Aramco and Chevron for their title sponsorship, as well as all the other sponsorships, that the interesting thing about the marathon when it started in 1972 it was literally five laps around Memorial Park and had 40 volunteers, 200 spectators, counting five dogs and three cats, and the turn around was a parked station wagon, so they could tell that obviously the event had changed over the years and what was really unique about the event was that they were currently bidding to host the 2012 marathon time trial for both the men and the women at the same event, which would be really unprecedented for Houston, that as noted in the Houston Chronicle for the past couple of days there had been a lot of articles about why people run, that most people run for either a charity or personal reasons, but relative to charities, they support over 46 non profit organizations and over the past 14 years had raised almost \$17 million for charities, that the marathon itself had a foundation called the Houston Marathon Foundation that supported fitness and running, that they had donated to the conservancy that he had been a board member of, that he wanted to personally wish the marathon committee, as well as Race Director Brent Koch, for a successful event, that he looked forward to participating in it and invited all Council Members and Mayor Parker to go out and watch the event.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he wanted to thank the Impresarios Latinos of Little York and 59 for inviting him to serve as official "padrino" or "godfather" for the Thirteenth Annual Dia de los Reyes Festival on Saturday, that it was a great event and they had hundreds of kids out there and his office was able to donate hundreds of toys for the event, that for those who did not know the Dia de los Reyes was the Three Kings Day which marked a celebration that commemorated the nativity story of the Three Wise Men and followed the gift giving tradition of Christmas, that he wanted to say thank you to Susan Christian and Joe Turner for making it a great event, that the Impresarios were on a mission for the eighth time to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest Rosca de Reyes, the Kings Cake, like in New Orleans, that he thought they had accomplished the goal so they looked forward to next year; that he would like to thank Mr. Issa Dadoush and Chief Boriskie for their hard work in renovating the greater Magnolia area Fire Station 20, that the fire station was severely damaged by Hurricane Ike and it took a little over a year to completely renovate the facility, that it was up and running and the firefighters were happy and it was a top notch facility, that they had a reopening on Friday; that he wanted to say thank you and congratulations to his former Council aide, Jeanea Carmouche, who had left to go back to grad school and work on her masters, that he wanted to thank her for her service to District I and he wanted to welcome Mr. Jose Soto, who would be his Senior Council Aide, that this was his second tour of the District I office, he had worked with them during Council Member Alvarado's term so he was very experienced and very capable. Council Member Jones absent.



Council Member Sullivan stated that he wanted to thank Mayor Parker for starting their meetings on time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; that he wanted to congratulate the new police cadet class that came in last week, that it was the highest number of graduating cadets ever and believed there were 79 in Class 207; that he was frustrated with something at Public Works and needed assistance from the administration, that it was strictly a constituent service issue, that they had been working on something at the South Belt area for some constituents and had been asking for updates from Public Works, he thought, from October, to the best of the information that he had in front of him, that it was terribly frustrating for him to tell a constituent for two, three or four months that he did not have any information, they reached out yesterday to Mr. Gary Drabek, as their Council liaison and just walked over to him a few minutes ago to ask if he had an update so he had given them every opportunity to help him and read a couple of paragraphs from a constituent, Loretta Jordan and Richard Guillermo, who contacted them back in August with concerns that the City had done work on their sewer lines a couple of years back and the constituents said that Public Works did rehab work on one side of Cripple Creek, as well as one side of Brook Glen and the black pipe underground was cracking causing driveways to sink and crumble and sewage to flow under the homes from time to time, that Jesse Cantu from Public Works and a crew were originally sent out to investigate the situation and as of August 18, 2009, Steven Ham had made customer contact but had not figured out a solution, that a contractor, Groveway Analysis Group, was checking into possible solutions to resolve the sanitary issues and Mr. Ham was supposed to talk to the contractor again on September 18, 2009 to harness possible solutions and since then they had emailed him as well as David Tagadod, who was working with him on the project, numerous times for an update and the only response they were getting back "over and over again was that they had requested assistance from a contractor on Monday, October 12, 2009, to do an analysis and give them all options on how to resolve this issue, they had their ideas but were trying to harness all possibilities, that he would get back with them today, October 20, 2009, for any updates or motivations they needed to respond quickly", that as of today they still did not have any information, so if the administration could help them with that they would appreciate it, and Mayor Parker stated that they would get it done and thanked Council Member Sullivan for bringing it to her attention. Council Member Jones absent.

Council Member Lovell stated that she wanted to congratulate Mayor Parker and her team for their response to the cold weather, that she wanted to congratulate Mr. Frank Wilson and his team at Metro who reached out immediately and first had plans at Park N Rides to have heat available for people who had to stand and wait on their ride and also they did reach out to offer free rides for people to shelters or people who needed assistance, so she wanted to thank them for their partnership and participation; that she wanted to congratulate Christian Gill, they all knew Karen Gill, her schedule, her son Christian recently won first place in the Impromptu Speaking in his District UIL competition at Wharton Junior High School, and the topic that he spoke on was "When I Disagree With My Parents"; that she wanted to say best wishes and good luck to Council Member Costello and also to her Chief of Staff, William Paul Thomas, who would be running in the Chevron Houston Marathon this weekend; that SNAP, the Spay Neuter Assistance Program invites the public to the grand opening of it's new Spay Neuter and Animal Wellness Clinic on Friday, January 22, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., that the new clinic was located at 1801 Durham and they now had 4,500 square feet of new facility that was twice as much space for their programs and they encourage them to take their animals there. Council Members Stardig and Jones absent.

Council Member Johnson stated that he wanted to congratulate Council Member Costello for running the marathon; that the TSU family lost some true giants from their community, that Maurice Hope Thomas was lost and they certainly knew the work that Mr. Thomas did at Texas Southern and particularly at KTSU, that their prayers go out to his family and all those who were impacted, that he brought a certain "je ne sais quoi" to KTSU and brought a lot of consciousness and quite frankly was a young man who told a story like it was did not mince his

words and always gave it to them the way it was, that they certainly were going to miss him, that they also lost Dr. Leonard Spearman and his wife and wanted to send out the prayers to the family as well, that the Acres Homes family lost a giant in Ms. Thelma La Strap yesterday, that it had hurt all of them and would send out their prayers; that as they looked at the news and recognized what had happened in Haiti while there were many problems that they had right here in their Country this kind of put things in perspective, how blessed they truly were and that God had given them the ability to help others along the way, that he always said during the new year they always renewed their energy and refocused themselves and he always said to people to simply do random acts of kindness because they never knew when God's awesome power would be yielded on them, that Haiti was certainly a horrible situation and hoped there was something that they all could do to support the people of Haiti, not only with their prayers but with their resources, dollars, to help rebuild that country, that his prayers went out to the people of Haiti and hopefully they could all do something to bring that country back together; that he wanted to mention CSTEM, which was a great organization in Houston and was doing wonderful work to help curb the drop out rate that they had in the City, that CSTEM stood for Communication Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics, that Dr. Reagan Flowers founded the program quite some time ago and was working in many of their inner City communities to introduce science, technology, engineering and math to many of their children who otherwise would not even think about going in these particular fields, that the kickoff for CSTEM would be on January 23, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., at TSU in the Wellness Center, that he had hosted CSTEM at George R. Brown Convention Center with the robotics competition and it was a wonderful competition to watch the children to build robots, that he hoped people would get out and support CSTEM, who provides opportunities for young men and women to be involved in a field that probably otherwise would not be made available or afforded to them; that on January 29 and 30, 2010 he would be hosting a job fair at Dogan Elementary, that it was a conference and they were encouraging everyone to come out to the conference to get themselves ready for employment; that there would be guaranteed 100 jobs made available to individuals who would come to Dogan Elementary on January 29 and 30, 2010, that they always say to dress for the job they wanted to have, that they would be doing training, drug testing and making sure that they were prepared to move into the workforce, for more information they could call 832-393-3009. Council Members Sullivan and Jones absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she wanted to thank Mayor Parker for outlining for them and the public the transition that they were under and one of the things that she wanted to bring to the attention of the Public Works Department as a transition, and also them as lawmakers, the possibility of tightening up their after work quality work or after work scrutiny, specifically what happened often was that the City would go in to conduct work, whether a water line replacement or street reconstruction and the personal property or real property was left damaged and it becomes very difficult for the citizen, the taxpayer, to be able to seek redress, they had it a number of times in District C whether it had to do with a plumbing excursion that was on City property, or most recently in the Shenendoah Neighborhood with Mr. Benestante when they were replacing a neighborhood sidewalk pursuant to the Safe Sidewalk Program and unfortunately the subcontractor staged all of the left over concrete that he dug up from the old sidewalks on Mr. Benestante's lawn and then left with significant damage to the lawn, that it was a real problem and the City did not go back and make sure that the subcontractor restored the property properly and really all it needed was a little bit of sod put down, but this was the type of thing that she would like for them to look at whether it was through a transition or through tightening up existing ordinances or possibly changing their quality control or at the end of the project kind of scrutiny; that she wanted to thank all of the freshman Council Members for attending the preview that they had last week specifically for Council Members, that they would have a City of Houston Financial Management Course that they would be hosting on Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and all Council Members and staff were invited to attend, that it was an excellent opportunity to have their questions answered and understand how their budget operated, that they would break it up into three weeks, the first was this coming Friday and

would discuss a basic overview of what the budget was, how to read the budget and monthly financial report and would also have a brief mention of Council Rules and Procedures, that the following Friday they would have a discussion of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the CAFR, and the CUS, Combined Utility System, that the following Friday they would have a discussion of debt, the CIP Program and TIRZs, that they welcome everyone to come and thought that breaking it up in three lunch periods would help make it a little bit more manageable, to please bring their lunch and their MOFAR, budget and CAFR and they would look forward to answering all questions that anybody might have; that she wanted to bring up something that she read in the Houston Chronicle over the weekend, a letter to the editor, and read "My family and I visited Houston for the first time when we traveled there to visit friends and attend the Texas Bowl, this may have been our first trip to Houston but we managed to do our share of traveling over the years and we have been to every State in the union, as we waited on our departing plane at Bush Airport my wife and I reflected on our short two days in your city, one thing we noticed as we interacted with local citizens at the airport, rental car counter, hotel, restaurant and Reliant Stadium was how friendly everyone was, but each person we met, even the security folks went about their jobs in an effective manner while also being very courteous, we twice witnessed janitorial staff workers at the airport, while going about their duties, wished one another Happy New Year and hugged each other, what a refreshing change of pace from what we normally witness in our travels, keep it up Houston we will be back, Allen Welsly, Oxnard, California", that they would welcome them back and welcome lots of tourists and visitors, that it was a great place to live in addition to being a great place to visit. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

Council Member Noriega stated that read in the Chronicle about the fact that Texas was absolutely dead last in processing food stamps and making sure that the least among them were getting fed and it talked about a number of issues and the question of whether or not they should do this did not seem to be the issue, that issue was that they made it hard and did not have enough staff to process the applications and people were waiting months, that she lived in an inner City neighborhood and rubbed shoulders with all kind of folks at the grocery store and she had been hearing that people have had to wait six months from the time they start the application process to when they get food stamps, that she guessed her real concern was that there were children involved and they were going hungry, that kids could eat at school but there were lots of times that she worried that there were kids that were hungry on the weekends or other times because the State of Texas was not efficient, that she thought the question of whether they did it or not was a worthy argument and the concerns about how they make sure that folks did not perpetrate fraud or any of those things none of that was what she was concerned about, that what she was concerned about was that they were doing a poor job of processing paperwork and causing people to wait in lines unnecessarily, that she had been to State offices where they did not have a line set up and they needed folks who spoke other languages and she just thought they could do better, that she knew over the next year they were going to build a Legislative agenda and this was not the kind of thing that was normally on the City's Legislative agenda and they did not actually have direct jurisdiction here in any way but she would like to encourage them to take a stand and if they were going to provide services as Texans then they should do it well, that she did not know who might have a bully pulpit about this but food was pretty basic, that they had gotten involved in air and water and she did not see this as just a whole lot different, that she would draw the article to her colleagues attention and wanted to mention it as a concern. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

Council Member Adams stated that she wanted to say happy anniversary to her sorority, Delta Sigma Theda, who was celebrating 97 years today, that they were gathering this week, many of them, to celebrate their Founders Day, that she traveled to Dallas to be the Founders Day speaker for the Dallas alumni chapter; that on Thursday night, January 14, 2010, there would be a townhall meeting focusing on the 2010 Census and how important it was for all of them to be counted, so please join them at 2020 Hermann Drive at 7:00 p.m.; that she wanted

to thank President Obama who had his press conference about the Haitian Community and was asking all of them who would like to contribute to visit [www.WhiteHouse.gov](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov) or to visit the local Red Cross to donate; that for those who were interested in the 2010 Census and the homeless population, the Coalition for the Homeless was looking for volunteers to count the homeless population on January 29, 2010, so if they would like to volunteer their time to please visit [www.HoustonHomeless.org](http://www.HoustonHomeless.org) and sign up and come out, that the startup time was 8:00 p.m. on January 29, 2010 until all of the counting was done, that it was for the surrounding Houston areas and Harris County, so they were asking all to please come out and make sure that the homeless population was counted during the upcoming 2010 Census, that it was so important that all of them were counted because this was where they got their federal dollars from and they wanted to make sure they got two additional Council seats as well as an additional Congressional seat, so it was very important that they focus on these efforts because they knew that April 1, 2010 was right around the corner, so for all who wanted to know where they were going and the importance of all of them being counted to visit [www.HoustonCounts.org](http://www.HoustonCounts.org), that she wanted to thank Margaret Wallace for everything she continued to do for the Houston Counts Committee and making sure that they stayed on focus to be able to move forward because it was important to Houston because they knew that they fell short a little bit in 2000 by being undercounted by a tremendous percentage, so they did not want it to happen again so to please remember the 2010 Census and they wanted everyone to be counted so that they could receive the necessary dollars for their hospitals, for public safety, for infrastructure and health care, that it was an important initiative. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she had heard an interesting statistic, that for every person that did not get counted it was \$1,500 that the City of Houston did not receive in federal dollars, so she wanted to thank her for highlighting that. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 9:59 a.m. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY.

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

/S/Anna Russell

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Anna Russell, City Secretary