

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Wednesday, January 19, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 19, 2011, Mayor Annise D. Parker presiding and with Council Members Brenda Stardig, Jarvis Johnson, Anne Clutterbuck, Wanda Adams. Mike Sullivan, Oliver Pennington, Edward Gonzalez, James G. Rodriguez, Stephen C. Costello, Sue Lovell, Melissa Noriega, C. O. "Brad" Bradford and Jolanda "Jo" Jones; Mr. David Feldman, City Attorney; Mr. Xavier Herrera, Mayor's Citizens Assistance; Ms. Marty Stein, Agenda Director; and Ms. Marta Crinejo, Assistant Agenda Director, present. Council Member Al Hoang absent on city business.

At 8:30 a.m. City Secretary read the descriptions or captions of items on the Agenda.

At 9:05 a.m. Mayor Parker called the meeting to order and stated that Council Member Hoang was scheduled for the prayer and pledge and was traveling on city business so she would offer the prayer and led all in the pledge of allegiance. Council Members Stardig, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan and Noriega absent.

At 9:08 a.m. Mayor Parker requested the City Secretary to call the roll. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Stardig, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Members Lovell and Gonzalez moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Stardig, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Sullivan and Noriega absent. MOTION ADOPTED.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Solid Waste Management Department

Mr. Harry Hayes, Director, Solid Waste Management Department, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation titled "Department of Solid Waste Management FY11 Budget Update", a copy of which is on file in the City Secretary's office for review. Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated that the Solid Waste Department was once the most heavily privatized function that they provided in the City of Houston and they were proud of that, they were very aggressive, it drove costs down, that she and many Council Members were asked why did they not privatize this service or that, that sometimes it made sense to do that and they had done that but in this case the Solid Waste Department beat the bids of the private sector and they brought it back in house, that was not forever, the next time they thought the market was right they would go back out and look again, that she wanted to point out that sometimes the private sector wins and sometimes the City could do it better and more efficiently and they had proven that; that the other was that there had been a policy decision made over the years with Solid Waste and she wanted to point out that Mr. Hayes had been aggressively cutting his budget over the last few years and returning those funds to the General Fund, that if they had left the money in Solid Waste they would have citywide recycling, that Mr. Hayes was proposing a new initiative, which they would bring to the appropriate Council committee and that was to make every tire facility in the City register, that it was not new ground, it was something that other cities did already, to register, pay a registration fee and then set that registration fee at a level to cover the approximately \$1.1 million of cost that they spend every year picking up waste tires across the City of Houston, that was a new initiative by the department and a continuation of their attitude that they were going to figure out a way to do it better and this was one where they just kept going out and picking up junk tires and there were some big companies that really were not the problem, that she thought they ought to be frank, there were a lot of mom and pop's out there to, but if they did 20 tires a month and then dump them down the street as

opposed to hundreds of tires a month it came back on the City and they had to figure out a way to get their arms around it. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Mr. Hayes was questioned by Council Members, and Mayor Parker stated that the administration was not currently proposing a recycling fee. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Costello, Lovell and Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker thanked Mr. Hayes for his presentation and would remind Council Members that they would be coming with the tire initiative to the appropriate committee, but a policy decision that she wanted them to think about which was that they had used the savings that Mr. Hayes had generated to balance the budget rather than allow him to expand recycling more aggressively, that she would also suggest that they consider Council Member Clutterbuck's suggestion, and it was not one that she had thought about before, but that there was an opportunity if they wanted to put more money on the recycling side if they reconsidered the sponsorship program, that was something for the Fiscal Affairs Committee to consider. Council Members Costello and Noriega absent.

Mr. Hayes introduced his team, Deputy Director Vick Ayers, Ms. Sarah Mason, Senior Policy Analyst, Ms. Ceil Price, Legal Department Environmental Attorney, Mr. Gary Rador, Department Chief of Staff and Engineer and Marina Joseph, Public Information Officer. Council Members Costello and Noriega absent.

At 10:24 a.m. Mayor Parker recognized Council Member Adams and stated that they would be moving to the public session. Council Member Costello absent.

Council Member Adams moved to suspend the rules to add Joe Mepelink to the speakers list after Ian Rosenberg, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Costello absent. MOTION 2011-0035 ADOPTED.

Council Member Sullivan moved to suspend the rules to move Bobby Herring to the top of the three minute non agenda speakers list, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Costello absent. MOTION 2011-0036 ADOPTED.

At 10:24 a.m. the City Secretary began calling the public speakers.

Ms. Mary Margaret Hansen, 6655 Rockbridge Lane, Houston, Texas 77023 (832-622-5452) appeared and stated that she was participating this year in a unique art project, unique because civic art had never been created for the City of Houston in this way; that 12 artists, architects, building contractor, etc., were all working together and directly with a public space to make the Houston Permitting Center at 1002 Washington Avenue a model of sustainability and example of the green philosophy of the city; that she was selected as lead artist nine months ago on the building team with instructions of selecting a team of artists who would create art urban and dynamic and to reflect the cultural diversity of this city, to reveal the work which went on within the building, etc., this art was important in its location because thousands had business in the building, would help the city's commitment to "green" and mirror Houston's diversity.

Council Members Noriega and Clutterbuck thanked Ms. Hansen for her work and support.

Mr. Ian Rosenberg, 1505 Isabella, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-443-2333) appeared and stated that he was in support of civic art as it had a lot of commonsense, it was a part of every

aspect of the built environment just as utilities and other basic services; that it increased the city's visibility on all levels and had just as much of a business impact as it did on a cultural impact and was experienced physically and emotionally and exposed all to diversity and ideas not exposed to on a daily basis; that civic art created pride and had links to crime reduction, etc., and advanced public art in the community.

Mr. Joe Meppelink, who was previously added to the speakers list, appeared and stated that he was also present speaking on behalf of civic art and the Houston Arts Alliance; that Council was aware of the cultural tourism and community benefits of civic art as just heard of; that approximately 80% of civic art spending in Houston stayed in Houston fueling the work of professionals and fabricators including engineering, fabrication and installation of the art works; that his firm, Metal Lab, was an architectural firm and among the creative professionals who served the industry; that one example was a sculpture behind the skate park called "Pipe Flow" was about a \$120,000 budget about three years ago and a New York artist approached their firm and he spent about \$100,000 of his budget in Houston by employing them and three engineering firms, etc., and he went on to win a national award for his project and now over the past three years had received \$1.2 million in civic art commissions all over the country and over half of which would be professionally developed and built and fabricated in Houston.

Mr. Bobby Herring, 7640 Lone Meadow Court, Houston, Texas 77095 (281-686-5028) appeared and stated that he and his wife started serving the less fortunate friends in Houston November 12, 2009, and they were shut down December 30, 2010 by the Houston Police Department; that they received no government funds or city grants, they only wanted to fulfill their mission as missionaries to love their neighbors as themselves; that they understood department laws put in by the Health Department were done so to protect their homeless friends who were more susceptible to illnesses, according to the Health Department, and to protect themselves from lawsuits, etc., but they assumed certain risks and would not let fear dictate their faith; that they wanted to feed their friends and described homeless cases, some involving children, and how they were able to assist. Council Member Jones absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she was glad he recognized why their were regulations such as being susceptible to food born illnesses and when they did contract such illnesses they did not have much dignity in how they dealt with it and it was possible for groups such as his to feed the homeless; that currently they asked the many agencies helping to work through the larger agencies, but they had chosen not to do that; that there were options open to them and ordinances pending in the Health Department.

Council Member Adams stated that she did applaud him and his wife for all they had done; that it took people with true heart for the homeless to be able to do what they did; and upon questions, Mr. Herring stated that his suggestions would be to eliminate or change ordinances prohibiting them from cooking at home to feed their friends and maybe allowing them to have a waiver signed or to inspect their homes just like the homecare services and home based businesses; and Council Member Adams stated that they were working on the ordinances to eliminate fees as she understood about the permit issues; that they did want all to be certified by the City of Houston without charging a fee for certification training, supervisory training, etc., they could not override inspection of their home, but they were looking into certified kitchens being able to partner with people and allow them to do their mission by preparing food there; that one of her priorities was the homeless and she commended anyone to do what they did in stepping out of the box and showing a servant's heart; that after the Mayor and Legal had reviewed it they would move it to Council Member Johnson's Health and Human Services Committee to discuss it in detail and other Council Members would then have input as well and he should feel free to call with any input he had; and commended and thanked them for all that they did. Council Member Stardig absent.

Mayor Parker stated that Council Member Adams would be taking point on this and she originally spoke on it as there was unfortunate media coverage which missed the point entirely; that they may work with her along with other Council Members if they had suggestions. Council Member Stardig absent.

Council Member Sullivan moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending the time for questions of Mr. Bobby Herring, seconded by Council Member Lovell. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Stardig and Noriega absent. MOTION 2011-0037 ADOPTED.

Council Member Sullivan stated that Mrs. Herring could come up she just could not stand at the podium; that there was an existing ordinance and they knew what it was and it had to be complied with, but they also needed to find a way for them to get out and feed their clients and find a balance at the parks, but in the interim where they were working through committees was there anything that could be done; and Mayor Parker stated that Council Member Adams was working with all due speed; and Council Member Adams stated that they were working with Ms. Kathy Barton in Health and she had began working on it as soon as she was contacted; that it was now being sent to the Mayor's Office and Legal to make sure it all fit in, but she would also forward it to him and he could look at it and maybe had suggestions he would like to offer, but they were trying to get this to Council Member Johnson's committee as soon as they could and thought the first one was the first Monday in February; and upon further questions by Council Member Sullivan, Council Member Johnson stated that it would be the first meeting in February. Council Member Stardig absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she too wanted to add her thanks and appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Herring for all their good work; that she appreciated them living their faith. Council Member Stardig absent.

Council Member Johnson stated that he thanked Mr. and Mrs. Herring for the work they did and for spreading the gospel in the community; that their had been media on this and he wanted them to protect themselves. Council Member Stardig absent.

Council Member Johnson moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending the time for questions of Mr. Bobby Herring, seconded by Council Member Sullivan. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Member Stardig absent. MOTION 2011-0038 ADOPTED.

Council Member Johnson stated that he would make available any commercial kitchen he had at his disposal and he was glad he was now working with those who could provide the kitchen he needed and on February 7, 2010, they would have a committee meeting to discuss the particular ordinance on feeding of the homeless; that the city said they would shut him down with his after school program when he did not have correct permits and there was a "hot sheet" motel next to him they left alone, but he wanted to make sure he had all he needed to continue his work because they knew he was doing God's work from the heart and applauded him. Council Members Stardig, Clutterbuck and Lovell absent.

Council Member Jones stated that she too thanked the Herrings for what they did; that she was thankful Council Member Adams was taking the lead on this to get where they needed to be, they needed to look at how the homeless were treated, moving them out of certain areas, etc., was an issue and it was important and how people dealt with them was as important as drainage, historic preservation, etc.; and this discussion needed to be kept, they were people too. Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent.

Ms. Margaret Chavez, 28858 Llano River Loop, Spring, Texas 77386 (936-581-1164)

appeared, presented information and stated that she worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville and they had a program called Texas Correctional Industries which was a program for offenders, it gave them a skill and trade to be able to work in factories and they had 43 factories inside the prison unit; that a senate bill was passed in 1963 called the Prison Mate Goods Act and they provided services to state and local agencies and consisted of four divisions of graphics, garments, furniture and metal and she felt the program would be useful for the City of Houston. Council Members Stardig, Johnson and Lovell absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Adams, Ms. Chavez stated that the services provided, skills learned are inside the prison unit and they manufacture goods for cities and other local entities. Council Members Stardig, Johnson and Lovell absent.

Mr. Ricardo Rivera, 7206 Valeview Drive, Houston, Texas 77072 (832-518-7685) appeared, presented information and stated that he was present on behalf of Harmony Schools; that he was outreach and events coordinator at a campus; that they were the largest charter school system in Texas and their foundation headquarters was in Houston; that they also had 11 of their 33 campuses in Houston; that half their schools were exemplarily rated by the State of Texas Education TA; that he was inviting the Mayor and Council to one of their grand openings the Harmony School of Art at 9115 Kirby Drive on January 29, 2011, and thanked all for their time and hoped to meet with them in their offices. Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent.

Council Member Johnson thanked Mr. Rivera for coming and stated that next time he came he should bring the children to exemplify the greatness Harmony was; that he had been to a ground breaking and was very impressed with the children and he looked forward to dialoging with the children next week. Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent.

Council Member Noriega stated that she first heard of Harmony when Paul Culbert said his son was going there and she visited one of the campuses and it was outstanding; that since she followed their school and continued to be impressed with all campuses and appreciated their work in education. Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent.

Ms. Leticia Vallejo, 11807 Chessington, Houston, Texas 77031 (281-879-5513) appeared and stated that she knew education needed to be priority in her daughter's life and did a background search and was excited with Harmony as it would also nurture her interests and talents; that it was a tuition free charter school promoting higher learning for all students and invited parents to take part and the outcome was wonderful; that Harmony deeply cared and knew students were the future. Mayor Parker, Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

Mr. Yalcin Akyildiv, 13334 Stafford Colony, Stafford, Texas 77477 (713-261-3729) appeared and stated that he was also with Harmony Schools and they were present with an invitation to the Mayor and Council; that their first school here was in 2000 and now they had 33 schools with 11 in Houston; that they were honored to have their official opening of their new school Saturday, January 29th at 12 noon followed by their Science Fair and they would be happy to see them. Mayor Parker, Council Members Stardig, Adams and Lovell absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

Mr. Mark Wagner, 407 Fargo, Houston, Texas 77006 (713-927-9896) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Mayor Parker, Council Members Stardig, Adams and Lovell absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

Mr. Patrick Lancton, 6202 Birdwood, Houston, Texas 77074 (281-513-1995) appeared, presented information and stated that he wanted to spread light on a business practice he

believed to be an injustice to customers in the City of Houston water automatic monthly billing program which he was a part of; that in November 2010, he received a letter notifying him they misread the water meter and incorrectly charged him an extra \$475.90, but he was shocked that when he received his bill in January there was a credit of the money instead of a refund notice and when he contacted them he was informed the city would not refund it but would use it toward credit of his account; that he learned they would only refund money if he called and specifically requested it and if he would have requested it still it would be four to six weeks to receive a paper check refund; that he was told they were unable to direct deposit funds to his account and this was a bad business practice and financial hardship on citizens living paycheck to paycheck and his goal was for the city to be able to address this properly if done in the future. Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent.

Council Member Jones thanked Mr. Lancton for coming and stated that she did not know why it worked in that way, but she too had been dealing with such a situation for a citizen in her office where the customer received the bill after the due date and a late fee was imposed; that the customer paid the amount due because of receiving the bill late, but the city's response was to add an additional late fee for not paying the first late fee; that it had been put in the mail and the customer was responsible; that her position was a customer should not have to bite the bullet for something the city had done and felt the billing system should be better for the constituent. Council Members Stardig, Johnson and Lovell absent.

Mayor Parker stated that City of Houston policy was a credit be given the customer on their bill; that it was also policy to refund the money, but it was actually difficult to credit an account even though they could debit an account having to do with safeguards in keeping people from pulling money out of City of Houston accounts in this day and age; that the city had been victim of fraud in the past where people were able to debit city accounts and it was a cumbersome process and the policy was and would remain paper checks, but one should not have to wait four to six weeks, that was unacceptable. Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck thanked Mr. Lancton for appearing and for putting together such a detailed explanation and she saw he did have ideas on how to change it; that it was challenging but not unique as she had a similar experience with a cell phone provider and when they finally got their paper check weeks later it was in an unmarked envelope and the risk was if they had thrown it out the refund would not have even been a credit but in the trash; and she too apologized for his experience. Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent.

Council Member Jones stated that another problem she saw was some citizens did not have bank accounts and to cash paper checks they may need to pay a fee. Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent.

Council Member Pennington moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending the time for questions of Mr. Patrick Lancton, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Stardig and Lovell absent. MOTION 2011-0039 ADOPTED.

Council Member Pennington stated that he believed the Mayor's Office had already been in touch with Mr. Lancton and he wondered if they had figured a way to get a check out quicker than several weeks; and Mayor Parker stated that it could be dealt with Administratively but it would be helpful for Council to hear what they did in general and this was not the only thing with Water Customer Service and it may be appropriate to have a general discussion. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan and Lovell absent.

Mr. Matthew Provenzano, 6019 Floyd, Houston, Texas 77007 (713-862-4252) had

reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan and Lovell absent.

Mr. John Johnson, 7102 Windemere, Houston, Texas 77088 (832-453-1900) appeared and stated that he was present regarding a matter at the Northside Substation, racism was alive and well; that there used to be segregation and now it was the minority majority; that now each race took care of their own; that the DA told him to speak to HPD about a police report and a Black lady started talking bad and then he did to her and she turned him over to a POS officer and then officers began interrogating him about why he wanted the report, then an officer said how stupid was his mother to not train him on checks; and he continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez and Lovell absent.

Mr. Daniel Arp, 8273 Park Place #19, Houston, Texas 77017 (281-220-7542) appeared and stated that in recent times he heard people come to Council complaining about too many tickets being written for loud vehicles and there was a city ordinance and he would like as many written as possible to make this city less noisy; and secondly he noticed the adult population in libraries had dwindled and believed it was because of children running around and security guards who probably did not even know the rules; and third if there was a policy in the chamber of court rooms where a man was told to take off a cap women should be told the same, it was sexual discrimination against men. Council Members Stardig and Sullivan absent.

Mr. William Beal, 5814 Overdale, Houston, Texas 77033 (no phone) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Stardig and Sullivan absent.

Mr. Jeff Jackson, 720 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009 (713-861-8833) appeared, presented information and stated that the last time he was present it was in opposition of approval of a 380 contract to reimburse the Ainbinder Company for infrastructure improvements in and around the retail development at Yale and Koeler Streets and commonly referred to as the Heights Walmart; that Council's approval of the agreement was the beginning of the process of making it a reality; that they had now submitted a traffic analysis to the city's engineering department and the department's approval of the setting would allow the general permitting process for the project to begin; that Responsible Urban Development for Houston, a nonprofit group of which he was affiliated, obtained a copy of the study and spent much time analyzing it and completed a preliminary traffic study of their own which confirmed what their group and numerous citizens already said about traffic and what the Ainbinder study failed to take into account was the Yale Street bridge was a load zoned bridge and it would be the most likely route trucks would take to restock and they would like a meeting to discuss the study with the Engineering Department. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Pennington and Jones absent.

Council Member Gonzalez thanked Mr. Jackson and others for being present and stated that the process was under review and he had communicated with Public Works and they were submitting their own comments and suggestions and concerns about the traffic impact analysis and they had also reviewed concerns, etc., by his group and submitted answers to them; that they were aware of the bridge capacity and there were a lot of possibilities and he submitted a request for them to visit with him and he would continue to be a watchdog. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez and Jones absent.

Ms. Eileen Reed, 1315 Cortlandt, Houston, Texas 77008 (713-861-1919) appeared and stated that she was very inspired by the report by Solid Waste Management today and she could not wait to get her recycle container; that she lived in the Heights and was present on behalf of Responsible Urban Development for Houston, a nonprofit organization, devoted to preserving the appearance and traditions of the Washington Avenue corridor and greater Heights area and they would like to have a work session with the Department of Public Works

and Engineering prior to any approval of traffic impact analysis submitted by the developer and they were concerned about drainage and their group would be conducting a public meeting Wednesday, January 26, 2011, at 6:30 at the Council on Drug and Alcoholism and all were invited. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Noriega thanked Council Member Lovell for visiting with the group in her office and Council Member Gonzalez for taking the lead on this and making sure the meeting happened; that she wanted on the record that she was concerned about the bridges, she was not an engineer but when a bridge had the capacity of half that of an eighteen wheeler it was a concern; that on the freeways there were signs of height regulations and periodically someone would get stuck because they did not read or do what was required and she was concerned about the antique bridges, all it took was one knucklehead; and today wanted on record speaking to that concern and attention did need to be paid to it. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Jones thanked Ms. Reed for coming and stated that she was trying to get their questions answered and working with Council Member Gonzalez; that she saw another area where crime went up with increased traffic and there were no clear-cut answers, what was progress to some was diminished quality of life for others and she did believe there should be objective criteria so it would have the same impact in some neighborhoods as others. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Costello thanked Ms. Reed for coming; and upon questions, Ms. Reed stated that they did have a traffic engineer working with them, but she would not like to share the name without checking with the group, but would check and then get back with him, he was a private individual. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Mr. Jonathan C. C. Day, 1100 Studewood, Houston, Texas 77008 (832-368-5500) appeared, presented information and stated that it was his handout and if he had done something wrong Council Member Costello should tell the group; that he was a lawyer in the neighborhood, he was not with RUDH but did believe they were an important part of the public/private partnership in play here with the city, developer and citizens; that there was a gross over simplification of conclusions of the report, the traffic study seemed to be pointing the finger at I-10 as the problem rather than the impact created by the development and an important part of Council's responsibility here was a contractual responsibility of permitting requirements and he would be happy if city officials looked at the groups involvement as a part of the partnership; that this was a very important traffic analysis and the city needed to give the city engineer the authority to ask the developer for the information; and continued to discuss the report and what was needed. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Council Member Lovell thanked all for coming and stated that one of the most important things said today was this was a partnership between the City of Houston, developer and neighborhood and as long as that was kept active with common goals this would be a successful development; that there would probably be three traffic impact studies and they may all vary, but in talking they could be successful; and Mr. Day stated that as the city considered 380 agreements and gave money back to developers, with money came responsibility and the traffic impact analysis was important and the language in studies were technical and Council Member Costello had experience; and Council Member Costello stated that he would be in on the process; and Council Member Lovell stated that the Public Works Department had a sensitivity to the neighborhood and they could overcome challenges. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Noriega and Jones absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she wanted to make all aware she would have to leave the Chamber by noon and Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez was aware and would be conducting the rest of the meeting. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Noriega and Jones absent.

Ms. Joanne Sorrentino, 3030 Shadow Briar Drive, Houston, Texas 77082 (281-809-8402) appeared and stated that she was present to address inadequacies with METRO Lift and MSP, she used MSP on January 17th and waited a long time before being able to get home; that after their call was made they could not go in to use any restroom and had to wait for their ride and then to get home and it damaged their kidneys. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she appreciated the issue and suggested she speak with METRO who was in charge and she would make sure they received her information so they could contact her, this was not the first time they heard concerns of the service. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

President Joseph Charles, P. O. Box 524373 #227, Houston, Texas 77052-4373 (713-928-2871) appeared and stated that he needed more than three minutes; that he was the U. S. President; and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

Ms. Patricia Martin, 3401 Fannin, Houston, Texas 77004 (832-630-3717) appeared and stated that she was visually impaired, but by the grace of God was present; and continued expressing her personal opinions until her time expired. Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega 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 Stardig, Sullivan, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

At 11:54 a.m. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez stated that they would proceed to the consent agenda. Mayor Parker and Council Members Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 26

MISCELLANEOUS - NUMBER 1

1. CONFIRMATION of the reappointment of **DR. FRANKLIN D. JONES** to Position Four of the **HOUSTON ETHICS COMMISSION**, for a two year term expiring December 31, 2012 – was presented, moved by Council Member Lovell, seconded by Council Member Costello. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. MOTION 2011-0040 ADOPTED.

ACCEPT WORK - NUMBER 4

4. RECOMMENDATION from the Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$463,410.42 and acceptance of work on contract with **HUFF & MITCHELL, INC** for Voss #2 Lift Station Diversion - 7.99% under the original contract amount **DISTRICT G - PENNINGTON** – was presented, moved by Council Member Lovell, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Members

Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. MOTION 2011-0041 ADOPTED.

PROPERTY - NUMBER 6

6. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering, reviewed and approved by the Joint Referral Committee, to repeal Motion #2006-665, 7/26/06 relating to a prior similar request and approve request from Brian Nawara, Texas Engineering and Mapping, on behalf of Luel Partnership, Ltd., [M.C. Interests, L.C. (C. Fred Meyer, Manager), General Partner], for abandonment and sale of Meyer Park Boulevard, from Meyer Forest Drive west to its terminus, and an adjacent 10-foot-wide sanitary sewer easement, in exchange for the conveyance to the City of a 25-foot-wide sanitary sewer easement, all located in the Meyer Park South Subdivision, out of the James D. Owens Survey, A-612, Parcels SY11-020A, SY11-020B, SY11-020C, SY11-020D and DY11-017 - **DISTRICT C - CLUTTERBUCK** – was presented, moved by Council Member Lovell, seconded by Council Member Adams. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. MOTION 2011-0042 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 9 through 26

9. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON, INC**, providing up to \$2,190,136.00 in Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Funds for the Administration and Operation of two community residences, a Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program, and Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program, along with the provision of other supportive services – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-048 ADOPTED.
14. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2004-0009 (Passed by City Council on January 7, 2004) to increase the maximum contract amount for contract between the City of Houston and the **CYPRESS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT** for Supplemental Firefighting Services in the Willowbrook Mall Area - \$100,000.00 - General Fund - **DISTRICT A - STARDIG** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-049 ADOPTED.
15. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and the **HOUSTON ARTS ALLIANCE** for Professional Civic Art and Conservation Administration Services on behalf of the Houston Airport System; providing a maximum contract amount - 1 Year - \$2,322,200.00 Enterprise Fund - **DISTRICTS B - JOHNSON; E - SULLIVAN and I - RODRIGUEZ** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-050 ADOPTED.
16. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and the **HOUSTON ARTS ALLIANCE** for Professional Civic Art and Conservation Administration Services on behalf of the General Services Department; providing a maximum contract amount - 3 Years \$4,200,000.00 - Various Funds – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-051 ADOPTED.

17. ORDINANCE extending the provisions of **SECTION 28-303 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, to all single-family residential properties within **DUMBARTON OAKS SUBDIVISION, SECTION 1 and 2 REPLAT** to prohibit the parking of vehicles in the front or side yards of such residences - **DISTRICT D - ADAMS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-052 ADOPTED.
18. ORDINANCE extending the provisions of **SECTION 28-303 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, to all single-family residential properties within **IMPERIAL VALLEY SUBDIVISION, SECTIONS 1, 2, 3 REPLAT, 4 REPLAT and 5** to prohibit the parking of vehicles in the front or side yards of such residences - **DISTRICT B - JOHNSON** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-053 ADOPTED.
19. ORDINANCE extending the provisions of **SECTION 28-303 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, to all single-family residential properties within **RIDGECREST SUBDIVISION, SECTIONS 1, 2, 4 and 5, GLENVIEW SUBDIVISION, SECTIONS 1 and 2 and SPRINGDALE SUBDIVISION, SECTIONS 1 and 2** to prohibit the parking of vehicles in the front or side yards of such residences - **DISTRICT A - STARDIG** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-054 ADOPTED.
20. ORDINANCE extending the provisions of **SECTION 28-303 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, to all single-family residential properties within **SHARPSTOWN SUBDIVISION SECTIONS 1, 1A, 2 and 2 REPLAT** to prohibit the parking of vehicles in the front or side yards of such residences - **DISTRICT F - HOANG** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-055 ADOPTED.
21. ORDINANCE appropriating \$530,000.00 out of Parks Consolidated Construction Fund, \$155,000.00 out of Parks Special Fund and \$200,000.00 out of Woodlands Regional Participation Fund, awarding construction contract to **MILLIS DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION, INC** for Herman Brown Park; setting a deadline for the proposer's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance and other required contract documents to the City; holding the proposer in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for engineering and testing services,. construction management, Civic Art Program and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Parks Consolidated Construction Fund, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Fund, Woodlands Regional Participation Fund and Parks Special Fund \$1,000,000.00 - Grant Funds - **DISTRICT I - RODRIGUEZ** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-056 ADOPTED.
23. Omitted
26. ORDINANCE No. 2011-11, passed second reading January 12, 2011
ORDINANCE granting to **GENERAL SITE SERVICES, LLC, A Texas Limited Liability Corporation**, the right, privilege and franchise to collect, haul and transport solid waste and industrial waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas,

pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and conditions; and making certain findings related thereto - **THIRD AND FINAL READING** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-011 ADOPTED THIRD AND FINAL READING IN FULL.

MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE CONSIDERED AS FOLLOWS:

MISCELLANEOUS

2. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of the 2011 Operations and Maintenance Budget for the Lake Houston Facility Project operated by the **COASTAL WATER AUTHORITY** - \$2,417,975.00 - Enterprise Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Lovell, seconded by Council Member Rodriguez, and tagged by Council Member Jones. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.
3. ORDINANCE appropriating \$580,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund for Trinity River Water Conveyance Project Operations, Maintenance and Consolidated Construction Budget operated by the **COASTAL WATER AUTHORITY** – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Jones. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.
- 3a. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of the 2011 Operations and Maintenance Budget for the Trinity River Water Conveyance Project operated by the **COASTAL WATER AUTHORITY** - \$21,121,804.00 - Enterprise Fund – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Jones. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

ACCEPT WORK

5. RECOMMENDATION from the Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$3,313,489.18 and acceptance of work on contract with **PRIME CONTROLS, L.P.** for Automation and Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition Improvements at Wastewater Treatment Plants - 1.25% over the original contract amount – was presented, moved by Council Member Lovell, seconded by Council Member Rodriguez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. MOTION 2011-0043 ADOPTED.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS

7. **TURTLE AND HUGHES, INC** for Electrical Circuit Breakers for the Department of Public Works & Engineering - \$92,500.00 - Enterprise Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Lovell, seconded by Council Member Rodriguez, and tagged by Council Member Jones. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.
8. **FINNEGAN CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE L.P.** for Automotive, Chrysler Group OEM Replacement Parts and Repair Services for Various Departments - 5 Years - \$1,025,963.00 - General and Fleet Management Funds – was presented., moved by Council Member Lovell, seconded by Council Member Rodriguez. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

Council Member Adams asked how this would be related to the fleet consolidation, what was the difference between what they were doing here and the other parts that they ordered from NAPA, because these were some of the similar cars that they were ordering parts for, that if someone could get back with her later, that she was not going to tag the item, she just had that question, and Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez stated that they would follow up with her, that these were OEM parts and had always been purchased through the manufacture so it was kind of a separate process, that they would still continue to do that even with the fleet consolidation, but they would follow up with additional information.

A vote was called on Item No. 8. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. MOTION 2011-0044 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES

10. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD** for Certification of Qualified Child Care Costs and transfer of funds under Title VI of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-057 ADOPTED.
11. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD** for Certification of After School Achievement Program Expenditures to obtain further Federal Funding for Child Care Services in the City – was presented. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

Council Member Adams asked if the funds that they received for the After School Programs, which she was sure were federal funds, but did they come directly to the City or were they channeled through the State to the City, and was it going to be part of the cuts and eliminate the After School Program in the future. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez stated that they use both federal and also General Fund dollars as well, that they had funds that were directed to the City from different sources, including HGAC, the State, the Federal government and General Funds, that they would brief her on that. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

A vote was called on Item No. 11. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-058 ADOPTED.

12. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2009-98, as amended, to increase the maximum contract amount for contract between the City of Houston and **DENTON, NAVARRO, ROCHA & BERNAL, P.C.** for Legal Services relating to Cause No. 4:08-CV-2404; Dwight Bazile et al. v. City of Houston; in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas - \$175,000.00 Property and Casualty Fund – was presented. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

Council Member Jones stated that on Item Numbers 12 and 13 could she get an understanding as to what was going on. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent.

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

Mr. Feldman stated that Item Numbers 12 and 13 were related, Item No. 12 had to do with the additional expenses that they were incurring in connection with litigation styled *Viziel versus the City of Houston*, that it was a case that was brought by some African American Firefighters complaining that the promotional exams for Captain positions were discriminatory and had a desperate impact on African American Firefighters, the City had reached a settlement with the plaintiffs in the case in terms of changing the testing mechanisms, which they believed was consistent with current case law and how Judge Rosenthal, the trial judge, would rule given her prior decisions in promotional cases, they were also however required to join the union into the litigation because of the existing collective bargaining agreement, that these additional expenses, unfortunately, had arisen because of the contrary position that the union had taken in connection with the test changes that they were making pursuant to the settlement and prior court decisions, so they could not foresee it but it was something that they had to go through, that it had nothing to do with a low bid or any thing of that nature, it was just an unforeseen additional expense in connection with the defense of the litigation and required continuing litigation over what the tests would look like and what the testing protocol would be; that Item No. 13 was to actually pay for the testing service to put the tests together and to help conduct the examinations, that they were continuing to defend the settlement that they had reached and the exam structure that they clearly believed was in compliance with Title VII, as obviously did the plaintiffs and believed the courts as well; that on Item No. 12 they were voting for some additional legal fees, but primarily the money was for expenses in terms of depositions and expert witness appearances to respond to the union; that on Item No. 13 they were voting for the actual cost for the preparation of the examinations and the conduct of the examinations. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

A vote was called on Item No. 12. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-059 ADOPTED.

13. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2010-446 (Passed by City Council on June 9, 2010) to increase the maximum contract amount; approving and authorizing first amendment to agreement between the City of Houston and **MORRIS & MCDANIEL, INC** for Promotional Testing Services for the Houston Fire Department - \$344,000.00 - General Fund

Upon questions and discussion by Council Members, Mr. Feldman stated that there was no way that they could have anticipated this expense, so he did not know exactly how they were dealing with it internally, but it was an expense that they had no alternative but to endure since it was required by law, and Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez stated that they would have to find the funding for this and it would come from the General Fund for the Fire Department. Mayor Parker and Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

A vote was called on Item No. 13. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-060 ADOPTED.

22. ORDINANCE de-appropriating \$620,000.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund from Construction Management At-Risk Contract with **J. E. DUNN SOUTH CENTRAL, INC** (Approved by Ordinance 2009-0746) and appropriating \$620,000.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund and \$20,000.00 out of General Improvement Consolidated Construction Fund awarding construction contract to **AAR INCORPORATED** for Asbestos Abatement, Demolition and Underground Storage

Tanks Removal at 801 Gillette Street; setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for project management and construction oversight, and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund and General Improvement Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT I – RODRIGUEZ** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-061 ADOPTED.

24. ORDINANCE appropriating an amount not to exceed \$100,000,000.00 from the Combined Utility System General Purpose Fund (CUS); transferring such amount to the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund for Combined Utility System Capital Expenditures; declaring the Combined Utility System's intent to reimburse the CUS General Purpose Fund with bond proceeds – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-062 ADOPTED.
25. ORDINANCE appropriating \$600,000.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **REYNOLDS, SMITH & HILLS, INC** for Intersection Redesign, Quiet Zone and Street & Railroad Safety Improvements; providing funding for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund – was presented. Mayor Parker and Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

After discussion Council Member Jones requested that someone come and visit with her and explain Item No. 25. Mayor Parker and Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

A vote was called on Item No. 25. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Members Clutterbuck, Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-063 ADOPTED.

NON CONSENT AGENDA - NUMBERS 27 and 28

MISCELLANEOUS

27. MOTION to set a date not less than seven days from January 19, 2011, 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, 2011 – was presented. Mayor Parker and Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Lovell moved to set January 26, 2011 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 Jones. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. MOTION 2011-0045 ADOPTED.

28. MOTION to set a date not less than seven days from January 19, 2011, to receive nominations for appointments or reappointments to Positions 18, 20 and 21 on the **HOUSTON READ COMMISSION**, for three-year staggered terms

Council Member Lovell moved to set January 26, 2011 to receive nominations for appointments or reappointments to Positions 18, 20 and 21 on the Houston Read Commission. Seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. MOTION 2011-0046 ADOPTED.

MATTERS HELD - NUMBERS 29 and 30

29. RESOLUTION authorizing loan application to the Texas Water Development Board - (**This was Item 10 on Agenda of January 12, 2011, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JONES**) – was presented. Council Member Jones voting no, balance voting aye. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. RESOLUTION 2011-0002 ADOPTED.
30. ORDINANCE appropriating \$600,000.00 out of Equipment Acquisition Consolidated Fund for conversion of data from the Municipal Court's Integrated Case Management System to it's Court System Management and Resource Technology System pursuant to contract, (Approved by Ordinance No. 2008-806); providing funding for contingencies related to the project and for services under contract with **HOV SERVICES, LTD.** – (**This was Item 28 on Agenda of January 12, 2011, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON**) – was presented. Council Member Jones voting no, balance voting aye. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Mayor Parker and Council Member Sullivan absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. ORDINANCE 2011-064 ADOPTED.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Jones stated that there was a gentleman on the public speakers list who did not come up but was going to talk about parking issues, that she would like to say that this past Friday she and her staff had a staff retreat and one of the things that they learned when they were forced to ride the public transportation system and consequently they were forced to park at the Metro station by Reliant, they put money in the machine to buy Metro passes and the machine took the money and when they tried to get a refund they called 3-1-1 and they said that they did not give refunds and they dug deeper and found that they do actually give vouchers so thanks to their team building efforts they learned that 3-1-1 did not know that they actually gave parking passes for the day, they were now going to put that for people who called about certain problems on how to resolve them; that she wanted to thank the people who ran the retreat because they forced them to touch every department and learn about every department regardless of what it was, so based on their experience with Metro they would be making some recommendations to them so that Metro could provide better customer service; that on Sunday she attended a brunch against bullying, which she thought was fabulous, that her office was trying to work with State Representative Garnet Coleman and State Senator John Whitmire in trying to get something to protect their children, that she wanted to give a shout out to the Houston Stonewall Young Democrats for having that; that she participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Costello and Lovell absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez stated that he to attended the brunch against bullying and it was a good event. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Costello and Lovell absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO

QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Bradford stated that the Greater Houston Civic Coalition and Dr. Renardo Guerrero were hosting a City of Houston Redistricting Educational Townhall Meeting tomorrow, Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Saint Thomas, 3800 Montrose Boulevard, that it was an educational townhall meeting concerning the redistricting process. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Costello and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez stated that this was a uniquely different year because they were adding two seats so it was important for the community to be involved in the process. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Costello and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Lovell stated that tomorrow, January 20, 2011, the Development and Regulatory Affairs Committee would meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber; that the Transportation, Infrastructure and Aviation Committee would meet on Monday, January 24, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber; that yesterday she attended the Houston Galveston Area Council meeting as an alternate for Mayor Parker and she was proud to announce and congratulate that the City of Houston had recognized Parks and Organizations, that it was part of the Houston Galveston Area Council's honors awards program, that the awards were presented by HGAC Natural Resources Advisory Committee, Parks and Natural Areas Sub Committee, the 2010 Award winners were the Ida Gay Gardens, which was Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition, the Greenspoint District; Conservation Posey, which was Hermann Park Conservancy; J.T. Trotter Park, which was Houston Parks Board; Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail, which was the Bayou Preservation Association; that Robert C. Stewart Park, which was City of Houston Parks Board and Special Recognition to Sam Houston Park Master Plan and Cell Phone Audio Tour Program, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, that they picked up a lions share of the rewards and she wanted to congratulate them for their efforts to make it a much more park friendly City and for their quality of life, that the Energy Corridor District Bicycle Master Plan was recognized, Project Blazing Star, which was Hermann Park Conservancy, the Ameri Trail at Lake Houston Wilderness Park, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department and also the Westbury Common Garden, Westbury Civic Club. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Costello and Jones absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Noriega stated the University of Houston's quest to become the State's next top tier university had received a major boost, the latest rankings from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching moved U of H to it's highest category for universities with very high research activity, that the University of Houston's faculty had received more than a million dollars in research grants last year, more than any of the other emerging research universities, that this put it moving toward the University of Texas, Texas A&M and Rice, which were currently the only Tier One status universities in Texas, that this designation by the Carnegie Foundation did not actually mean that U of H was officially a Tier One School, there were other rankings to consider besides the research portfolio but it offered proof that the university's research program had grown dramatically and they were very proud of the progress they had made. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Costello and Bradford absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Adams stated that she wanted to make a correction, that Mr. Patrick Lancton came before the Council today to discuss credit for his water bill and she received information from the Controller's office that said that checks could be cut in one day, so they needed to make sure there was communication within the various departments; that she wanted

to thank the Dreamkeepers Committee and the Martin Luther King Frontier Organization for putting together a wonderful weekend; that several weeks ago she displayed some pictures of 8111 Hirshwood, a home with no running water and sewage gapping from a hole, that it was covered by one of their local news television stations, Fox 26, the owner of the structure, which they mentioned before owned about 147 properties in the City of Houston with similar conditions, he put a for lease sign on the house, that rent, she thought, was \$450, and he displayed it on a website and the Greensheet, that one of the things she was working with Attorney Feldman and the Mayor's Office was to come up with stricter rules or ordinances to be able to protect their citizens, because after the City of Houston had condemned the building and made it inhabitable for anyone he still placed a lease sign on the building, that they needed to make sure that these landlords knew that they had to follow the rules; that this weekend many of them participated in various parades for MLK Day, that it was very disturbing to know that there were fourteen permits that were requested yesterday for a Martin Luther King. Jr. Parade next year, that many of them knew what Martin Luther King stood for and she hoped that they really took what he said about equality and justice and for them to be unified on one accord; that she wanted to congratulate all of the Houston Independent School District students who participated in the Martin Luther King Day Speech, specifically the elementary schools and participants from District D, Jaylin Marian, Thompson Elementary, Anaya Leary Haley, McGregory Elementary, Cameo Brown, Windsor Village Elementary School and Maya Dunker, Woodbey Elementary, that she wanted to commend all of those students for participating in the Martin Luther King Oratory Speech this past weekend; that she wanted to thank the First Montrose Commons for coming out last night in high numbers to discuss the process for historic designation, that she wanted to thank Mayor Parker for her presence and Marlene Gafrick for everything they continue to do to make sure the information was provided to all of their constituents when they are dealing with historic preservation. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Costello, Noriega and Bradford absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she wanted to thank Council Member Lovell for mentioning the HGAC meeting yesterday, which she and Council Member Lovell attended, that they had a light agenda but a lot of awards at the end for a lot of hard working City of Houston people, not the least of which were People for Hermann Park and recipients from the Houston Parks Department and from the Westbury citizens promoting the Westbury Garden; that the Officer of the Month for January was Sergeant Calvin Johnson, that on January 10, 2011 Sergeant Johnson was informed by a concerned citizen that two suspects were carrying large televisions on the bayou near the 6400 Block of Lettington Drive, that Sergeant Johnson gathered several officers to investigate and observed four suspects underneath a bridge in position of the following, four large flat screen televisions, a pistol, a Wei game, a Play Station 3, approximately 50 DVDs and other property taken in recent burglaries that they had committed, that they observed, made pursuit and surprised the offending individuals and were able to arrest two of them and return all of the property to the location of the victims and were still on the look out for the remaining two suspects, that the two that they had in custody now also had prior convictions, that she wanted to congratulate Sergeant Johnson, keep up the good work; that she wanted to mention her appreciation and praise for Mr. Mark Lathan, Deputy Director, Public Works, that he appeared before a civic club meeting last week to talk about a highly contentious and difficult and engineering complex set of facts relating to flood control and drainage in the Brays Bayou area and did a wonderful job. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Costello, Noriega and Bradford absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Pennington stated that he attended the inauguration of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor; that the Mayor spoke to his wife's breakfast club this morning and in taking a little sample poll afterwards people were volunteering that they did not realize that there were so many problems that they had to deal with and Mayor Parker had done a very adequate

job of explaining them. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Rodriguez, Costello, Noriega and Bradford absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Jones stated that in response to what Council Member Adams said about the man who had the for lease sign up, obviously they did not have enough personnel to be able to check all that, but if they could condemn a building could they move to demolish it so that they could make sure they did not lease them out, and Mr. Feldman stated that there was a very specific process that they had to follow to get an order of demolition, they had checked into the particular building in question, they did have a number of citations, they were on the road to the point where they would probably be able to bring a lawsuit to get an order of demolition and what they would do was also ask the court for a temporary injunction until they get the order of demolition to enjoin the leasing of any further units pending disposition by the courts. Mayor Parker and Council Members Johnson, Stardig, Sullivan, Pennington, Rodriguez, Costello and Bradford absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 12:35 p.m. Council Member Hoang absent on city business. Council Members Stardig, Johnson, Clutterbuck, Hoang, Pennington, Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Lovell, Bradford and Jones absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

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

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

/S/Anna Russell

Anna Russell, City Secretary