

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Tuesday, December 18, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 18, 2012, Mayor Annise Parker presiding and with Council Members Helena Brown, Jerry Davis, Ellen R. Cohen, Wanda Adams, Mike Sullivan, Al Hoang, Oliver Pennington, Edward Gonzalez, James G. Rodriguez, Mike Laster, Larry V. Green, Stephen C. Costello, Andrew C. Burks, Jr., Melissa Noriega, C. O. "Brad" Bradford and Jack Christie, D. C.; Mr. Harlan Heilman, Division Chief, Claims & Subrogation Division; Ms. Marta Crinejo, Agenda Director present.

At 1:42 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales stated that they would now begin presentations and called on Council Members Hoang, Bradford and Brown and Council Member Hoang invited those present for their presentation to the podium and stated that it was an honor to present a Proclamation to Dr. Daniel Liao who was Counsel General promoting friendship in the community; and Council Member Brown read the Proclamation regarding a sister state relationship with the Taiwan Province; and Council Member Bradford stated that Director General Liao worked and met with local, state, federal and civic leaders to further mutual understanding and strengthen friendships; and Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presented the Proclamation to Director Daniel Liao and proclaimed today "Daniel Liao Day" in Houston, Texas. Mayor Parker, Council Members Pennington, Rodriguez, Laster, Costello and Burks absent. Council Member Sullivan presiding.

Mr. Liao stated that he was representative of Taiwan, the Republic of China, and serviced the Asian community in Houston and expressed joint sympathy and love for all who fell victim to the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut and love to their families; and he was honored and humbled to receive his recognition today. Mayor Parker, Council Members Pennington, Rodriguez, Laster and Burks absent. Council Member Sullivan presiding.

Council Member Green invited those present with his presentation to the podium and stated that the South Main Mustangs Youth and Cheer Program were under the Southwest Houston Conference, Inc. and strived to promote champions attitudes by encouraging fitness, etc., that the Mustangs were the Super Bowl Champions, he introduced each; and Mayor Parker presented a Proclamation to the group and proclaimed today as "South Main Mustangs Day" in Houston, Texas. Council Members Pennington, Rodriguez, Laster and Burks absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

A Spokesperson for the group stated that they were the heart of Hiram Clarke and thanked all for the honor and recognition. Council Members Pennington, Rodriguez, Laster and Burks absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

Council Member Adams thanked the parents of the group and each of the Mustangs for doing an awesome job. Council Members Pennington, Rodriguez, Laster and Burks absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

Council Member Sullivan, with his daughter beside him, stated that it was an honor to be present on his last Tuesday to present a special Proclamation; that his daughter Paige served as student council officer at Riverwood Middle School and Kingwood High School and volunteered at churches, camps and political campaigns; and Mayor Parker presented a Proclamation to Paige and proclaimed today as "Paige Sullivan Day" in Houston, Texas. Council Members Pennington, Rodriguez, Laster and Burks absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

Miss Paige Sullivan stated that this was really awesome and she would never forget it; thanked all for what they did and for the recognition. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales and Council Members Christie, Pennington, Burks, Hoang and Rodriguez congratulated Ms. Sullivan on her recognition. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

At 2:09 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez called on Council Member Sullivan who called on his daughter, Paige Sullivan to lead all in the invocation and Council Member Sullivan led all in the pledge. Council Member Pennington absent.

At 2:10 p.m. the City Secretary called the roll. All present.

Council Members Gonzalez and Bradford moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Davis and Hoang absent. MOTION ADOPTED.

At 2:11 p.m. the City Secretary began calling the public speakers. Council Member Hoang absent.

Mr. Roman Martinez, 510 E. 7th, Houston, Texas 77007 (713-825-3005) appeared and stated that he was president of Texas Taxi and present in favor of Agenda Items 15 and 16 relating to a pilot program for taxicabs. Council Members Hoang and Pennington absent.

Upon questions by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez, Mr. Martinez stated that they had over 1,600 vehicles and about 300 2007's they would have to take off line and it was important to know quickly if they needed that capital investment or not. Mayor Parker, Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Laster absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

Upon questions by Council Member Rodriguez, Mr. Martinez stated that he had letters and others wanted to speak as they were in unison supporting the pilot program another two years; that it worked well; and Item 15 dealt with many issues to clean up the industry and an important addition was the "APS" coming into the industry it was important for them not to hurt them in any way. Council Members Hoang and Pennington absent.

Council Member Gonzales moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of adding Mr. Ricky Kamin to the list of speakers after Mr. Michael Holt, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Hoang and Pennington absent. MOTION 2012-0847 ADOPTED.

Ms. Alice Collette, 1100 Bagby, Houston, Texas 77002 (713-655-1912 x114) appeared and stated that she was executive director of the Heritage society of Sam Houston Park and present on behalf of her board of directors and staff expressing support for Agenda Item 33 regarding improvements to the park. Council Members Hoang and Pennington absent.

Mayor Parker thanked Ms. Collette for coming and stated that they were all excited about the project. Council Members Hoang and Pennington absent.

Ms. Mary Desilva Vaught, P. O. Box 218870, Houston, Texas 77218 (281-794-1804) appeared and stated that she was present supporting revisions to the limousine and taxicab ordinance; that the revision was important to safety; and she hoped the ordinances would be enforced; and thanked all for their work on the revisions. Council Members Adams, Hoang and Pennington absent.

Mayor Parker thanked Ms. Vaught for coming in support of the changes. Council Members Adams, Hoang and Pennington absent.

Mr. Defo Ulu, 6435 Renwick, Houston, Texas (713-367-8303) had reserved time to speak

but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Adams, Hoang and Pennington absent.

Mr. Michael Holt, 6010 Boness, Humble, Texas 77396 (713-649-0000) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Adams, Hoang and Pennington absent.

Mr. Richey Kamin, who was previously added to the speakers list, appeared and stated that his family was in the taxicab business since 1967 and he was present voicing support to the editing of Chapter 46, Agenda Item 15. Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Burks absent.

Ms. Shitonda Johnson, 6402 Goforth, Houston, Texas 77021 (713-829-3342) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Burks absent.

Mr. John Cieslewicz, 1250 Dubarry, Houston, Texas 77018 (713-906-1725) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Burks absent.

Ms. Margaret Kallsen, 1331 Tulane, Houston, Texas 77008 (713-869-0820) appeared and stated that she had a Thank You card to present on behalf of participants and staff at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center Adaptive Recreation and Sports; thanking all for their facility and programs at the center. Mayor Parker, Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, Council Members Cohen and Adams thanked Ms. Kallsen for their kind wishes and card and wished "Seasons Greetings" to all at the center. Mayor Parker, Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

Ms. Jill Purcell, 1117 Texas Avenue, Houston, Texas 77002 (713-388-6817) appeared and stated that she was at the Farmers Market and Officer Ramos tried to rattle her nerves, he was disrespectful and should not represent Houston's law enforcement; and certain facilities were needed in Houston for the homeless of which she was one. Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Burks, Ms. Purcell stated that she was sitting with a beer and the officer emptied the beer and invaded her space, he was disrespectful. Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated to Ms. Purcell and to the Council that much of downtown had prohibitions against open containers of alcohol and that may be what started the interaction and she wanted to make sure that was said. Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Ms. Deborah Elaine Allen, P. O. Box 263252, Houston, Texas 77207-3252 (713-624-0127) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Ms. Anne Gorman, 2316 Albans, Houston, Texas 77005 (832-607-2316) appeared and stated that she was a volunteer at Angela's House weekly for three and a half years; that she taught a writing class and it was always clean and well maintained with friendly and well dressed and behaved women who were grateful for their chance; and urged all open their hearts and get rid of their fears and allow Angela House to relocate. Council Members Adams,

Sullivan, Pennington, Green and Noriega absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Rodriguez, Ms. Gorman stated that she lived near Rice Village and would not mind having Angela House as her neighbor. Council Members Adams, Sullivan, Pennington, Green, Burks and Noriega absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Bradford, Mayor Parker stated that the information sheet provided to Council Members was provided by the Legal Department. Council Members Adams, Sullivan, Green, Burks and Noriega absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Christie, Ms. Gorman stated it was not a correctional facility; and Mayor Parker stated that it was not a correctional facility by any ordinance definition. Council Members Adams, Sullivan, Green, Burks and Noriega absent.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that much misinformation had gone back and forth on this project; that he had information it was a dead project and would not move forward, the initial proposal was for a correctional facility, but it was pointed out they would be in violation so since then they amended the scope of services, but he was not entirely incorrect calling it such a facility as that was what it first was. Council Members Adams, Sullivan, Green and Burks absent.

Council Member Brown thanked Ms. Gorman for what she did to help the women rebuild their lives and give them hope. Council Members Adams, Sullivan, Green and Burks absent.

Council Member Cohen thanked Ms. Gorman for putting herself out, what she did was incredibly important. Council Members Adams, Sullivan, Green and Burks absent.

Ms. June Adams, 6730 Crosswell, Houston, Texas 77087 (832-754-0813) appeared and stated that she was a representative of several communities in southeast Houston, specifically the Overbrook Addition and Parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and was not in support of Angela House in the area as many children and elderly lived there and they had a concern the house would attract criminal behavior. Council Members Adams, Sullivan and Green absent.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he supported her remarks and opposed the project; that he requested a meeting with the Cardinal but was told he was not available. Council Members Adams, Sullivan, Green and Noriega absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Christie, Ms. Adams stated that they were told the women had been incarcerated because of drugs and theft; that she did not know if there had been any trouble at their current location. Council Members Adams, Sullivan, Green and Noriega absent.

Council Member Bradford stated that the Legal fact sheet stated "Angela House will not house women who are on parole, early or pre-release or any other form of executive, judicial or administrative release from a penal institution.", but on the Angela's House Fact Sheet, itself it indicated "it enables women to make the changes in their lives so they do not reenter the prison system", so it seemed a major component of the program was housing to women who were released from a detention facility; and upon questions, Mayor Parker stated that Sister Hubbard and Mr. Rynd could answer questions as they spoke; and Council Member Bradford stated that he was not opposed to people getting assistance, but did want correct information when they made decisions. Council Members Sullivan, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Mr. Heilman stated that the definition required they be housed and the ladies would go to the facility to be rehabbed and trained and not spending the evening; and Mayor Parker stated

that these were women discharged from the appeal system, it did not mean they had not been in jail but they were no longer under court supervision so they fell outside the ordinances. Council Members Sullivan, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Council Member Rodriguez moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending the time for questions of Ms. June Adams, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Sullivan, Pennington and Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0848 ADOPTED.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he asked the City Attorney to be present for questions, but he had a prior commitment, he wanted him to state the city's legal position, but this was not a city project and they would not vote for funding, it was being proposed by the Archdiocese and Angela House. Council Members Sullivan, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Council Member Rodriguez moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of hearing Ms. Deffina Echavarria after Ms. Rose Olson, seconded by Council Member Burks. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Sullivan, Pennington and Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0849 ADOPTED.

Ms. Anita Serrano, 6411 Beldart, Houston, Texas 77087 (713-204-9321) appeared and stated that she lived in the Overbrook Subdivision many years and was representing 90 seniors who did not want Angela's House as it would be close to the elementary school and high school and across from the park; that it was a good ministry, but did not think it should be at the proposed location where there was no bus service. . Council Members Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Noriega absent.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he too was concerned; it was a question of location; that they had not been transparent and he questioned their integrity. Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Noriega absent.

Council Member Burks stated that he understood there was asbestos in the building, they would spend the night, and work was being done with no permits, schools were in the area and all that was red flags. Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Noriega absent.

Ms. Rose Olsen, 7435 Stanwick Drive, Houston, Texas 77087 (713-204-9331) appeared and stated that she too was present opposing the Angela's House on their school property; that she was a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and they had about 300 children in her class; that the soccer field was to the back of the proposed Angela House location; that there was no bus service and if Angela House came many would remove their children from the school. . Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Noriega absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Christie, Ms. Olsen stated that she did not know of the record of Angel's House; and she did not know why the Mayor could not build a house for them elsewhere; and Mayor Parker stated that the ladies were someone's daughter, someone's sister and perhaps mother; that there was no law or ordinance they were violating, it was not deed restricted and was previously multifamily, it was entirely on church property and other than outrage there were no legal steps the city could or would take to prevent the facility from opening. Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Noriega absent.

Council Member Burks stated that it was the community outrage ringing in his ears, there was nothing illegal, but why could they not assist in finding another location. Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Noriega absent.

Ms. Delfina Echavarria, 6805 Reed Road, Houston, Texas 77087 (713-301-8961) appeared and stated that she had children and was present as a mother who was against the proposed location for Angela's House; that she supported their ministry and what they stood for, but was frightened of the unknown, of what may come from their presence. Council Members Davis, Cohen, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Noriega absent.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he stood with her and would do what he could to make sure they followed every ordinance and he hoped their representatives were listening to the community. Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Noriega absent.

Sister Maureen O'Connell, 2028 Tuam, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-703-1038) appeared and stated that she was founder and executive director of Angela's House, a Catholic Sister, former Chicago police officer, a social worker, ministered here 30 years, etc., she had realized not much was being done for women returning to society and who deserved a chance; that the Archdiocese offered the property at Mt. Carmel and knew it would be wonderful. Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster and Costello absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Adams, Sister O'Connell stated that Angela's House was a transitional recovery community with most women having had substance abuse addictions; that they were privately funded; that the women served their time and were not on parole, etc., that they were housed there and the 77% who had not returned to incarceration lived with them seven to eight months. Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Burks absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Bradford, Sister O'Connell stated that no one who lived there was on parole, probation, etc., most of the women had an arrest record around drugs and crimes people engaged in to support their drugs, but terms of violence of sex offenders they had never had anyone like that; that they all did attend church service, a shame group which correlated shame and relapse and a therapist was on site about three and a half days a week; that they had a writing group, drama group, life skills, bible study; and as for security they were staffed 24/7. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Laster, Costello and Burks absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Christie, Sister O'Connell stated that 77% of the women who completed the Angela's House Program had remained in the community; that their recidivism rate was about 24%. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Council Member Christie moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending questions of Sister Maureen O'Connell, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Laster, Green and Burks absent. MOTON 2012-0850 ADOPTED.

Upon further questions by Council Member Christie, Sister O'Connell stated that they founded Angela's House to serve women returning to the community from incarceration and to engage the community and they engaged synagogues, churches, high school students, etc. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Laster, Green, Burks and Noriega absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions by Council Member Rodriguez, Sister O'Connell stated that she was told people would be appearing at Council so she appeared also; that she was advised by email, it was a blanket email forwarded to her she did not know from where; and Council Member Rodriguez stated that he would like to know who sent it. Council Members Brown, Davis,

Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Laster, Green, Burks and Noriega absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Teresa Doyle, 5310A Feagan, Houston, Texas 77007 (713-498-8498) appeared and stated that she was the psycho therapist at Angela's House, she was a licensed professional counselor, licensed family therapist and licensed chemical dependency counselor; that these women were an invisible population, women who needed a place to change their lives; that it was a privilege she had 10 years to work with the women and they would be somewhere and near someone's backyard. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Adams, Ms. Doyle stated that the women wrote letters and then filled out much information before it was determined if they would be able to help them. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Rodriguez, Mayor Parker stated that this was not a correctional facility under the ordinances because all women were off paper and had the ability to live anywhere in the city they wanted to; and Council Member Rodriguez stated that he would ask Legal to investigate whether or not this was true; and Mayor Parker stated that they did investigate this issue and it would come out on letterhead shortly, but it was investigated and she would make sure they followed up. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Mr. Michael Frankavich, 1804 Haddon, Houston, Texas 77019 (832-506-8454) appeared and stated that he was present at the request of Sister O'Connell who told him testimony would be given today; that he was previously in law enforcement and volunteered at Angela's House; that as an officer he was tired of arresting the same people over and over, but society and institutions did not do a very good job of rehabilitation and the recidivism rate clearly showed it; that their recidivism rate was clearly because of their work, he could testify that it really did work, women volunteered to be there and this type of program should be nurtured rather than limitations placed on it; and encouraged all to understand and allow them to expand. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Laster, Green and Burks absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

Ms. Andrea Link, 4326 Lone, Bellaire, Texas 77401 (713-927-8025) appeared and stated that she was a pediatrician and social worker and worked with incarcerated, homeless, substance abuse women in her capacity as a case manager; that Health Care for the Homeless was an independent nonprofit affiliated with the Baylor College of Medicine and as part of her work she referred many to Angela's House; that they had comprehensive programming and focused on the needs of each woman with therapy, education, etc., that her 14 year old daughter volunteered there and she walked them from jail to Angela's House herself and never feared for her daughter's or her safety. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that they understood the program and all believed in the merits of it, but they were talking about the location, no one in the area supported it; and Ms. Link stated she wanted all to understand they were not frightening or scary women and half of them came through her hand who were women committed to change, etc.; and they should not pose a threat to any location. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Council Member Christie stated that with Dr. Link's heart and compassion and empathy, if every physician was as she there would be no sick people. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Hoang, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Miss Katy Rose, 15 Sovereign Circle, Richmond, Texas 77469 (713072505061) appeared and stated that she graduated from St. Agnes Academy in 2009 and would graduate from the University of Notre Dame this May and she chose to complete her 100 hours of service with an organization which promoted social justice and she chose Angela's House and she was at the age many of the students would be around the new location and who so many were concerned about; that Angela's House was an asset, women there were genuinely committed and it was more than a compound, it was a disciplined process making women ready for society; and encouraged all in the community to get to know them. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Mayor Parker thanked Miss Rose for coming; and stated that it was always nice to see young people engaged in the community. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Sister Deenan Hubbard, 6510 Lawndale, Houston, Texas 77023 (713-928-6055) appeared and stated that she was a Sister of Charity at the Incarnate Word and her background was she had a masters in nursing and volunteered at Angela's House about three and one half years and hosted movie night; that she picked movies showing good choices made and consequences of decisions, etc., that she was always welcomed with great hospitality and respect; that they had all paid their debts and wanted to be solid contributing members of society. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Laster, Green and Burks absent.

Mr. Frank Rynd, 5000 Montrose #7E, Houston, Texas 77006 (713-652-8278) appeared and stated that he was general counsel for the Arch Dioceses and present to express strong support the Arch Dioceses of Galveston/Houston Archbishop Fiorenza and Cardinal DiNardo had for Angela's House and Sister O'Connell; that the community and Catholic Church was blessed by missions Sister O'Connell took; that people feared fear itself and much of this was about fear; that the 77067 zip code where Mt. Carmel was located had 190 parolees and 382 people under community supervision and his hope was with places like Angela's House they could have real rehabilitation. Council Members Brown, Davis, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green and Burks absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Pennington, Mr. Rynd stated that there had never been a police call for any incident for women at the present house, they were all carefully selected. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green, Burks and Noriega absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions by Council Member Bradford, Mr. Rynd stated that they wanted to make sure from the beginning they were properly permitted and believed they had what they needed. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green, Burks and Noriega absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Harold Mullins, 6945 Brace, Houston, Texas 77061 (713-539-4170) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green, Burks and Noriega absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Karen Ardoin, 758 Lucky, Houston, Texas 77088 (832-372-2648) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green, Burks and Noriega absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Judy Sere, 2727 Kirby #23-1, Houston, Texas 77098 (713-248-5351) appeared and stated that she was one of the eleven board members of Angela's House and all heard it was a wonderful program, but she listened to their neighbors and most of what they said was based on fear; that all there were under strict supervision and she would invite anyone to come and she would be glad to give them a tour and felt if they did meet the women they would see how humble they were and she hoped the community would volunteer. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green, Burks and Noriega absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Christie stated that to sum up things, he did not think the Council had jurisdiction over this and he respected Council Member Rodriguez's property rights and such, but his observation was it was fear and gave misguided examples of fear such as integration, children with AIDS in schools, etc.; and they needed a hundred such Angela's Houses. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green and Burks absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions by Council Member Noriega, Ms. Sere stated that the women did not have their children, they were with family, etc., they were there to totally focus on what was needed. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green and Burks absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Leslie Smith, 2823 N. Main, Stafford, Texas 77477 (832-746-7869) appeared and stated that she was an RN and licensed paramedic and owned a private ambulance company and they provided services in the City of Houston and surrounding areas; that others in the industry were also present today to address concerns with future increases for ambulance companies and ambulance driver permits; and discussed fees from 2010, 2011 and 2012 including driver fees; that as those fees increased they also had to pay other cities required fees such as Tomball, League City, etc.; and requested fees not be raised anytime soon Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green and Burks absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions by Council Member Pennington, Ms. Smith stated that they represented private ambulance companies and did private transfers such as from nursing hospitals, non emergency transfers from hospitals; that all the fees really added up with different cities and including state fees. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez, Green and Burks absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mayor Parker stated that to the best of her knowledge there was nothing in the pipeline and someone would come out and exchange cards with her; that Ms. Kathy Barton was present for her to speak with. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Bradford stated that some of the reference indicated eluded to the Administrative Procedure issued by the Mayor last week directing all Department Directors to increase fees on July first; that a certain percentage of CIP went up automatically on January first, for the record he voted against that as the city had too many fees on business already, but they would be going up January first. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Green absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Gerald O'Brien, 448 W. 19th #134, Houston, Texas 77008 (713-864-7900) appeared and stated that he was owner of Orion Ambulance Services, a private EMS company in the Heights; that EMS fees collected was a revenue source and they understood cost to operate, but the issue he saw facing the city was the "black eye" because of fraud convictions and implied corruption of the EMS industry and appealed to Council to review options which would

curb entry of fly by night companies and impose heavier controls on the permitting process for new operators and if there was opportunity to meet on a formal level with the Department of Health and Human Services to open and discuss options they would be interested in being part of it. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent.

Mr. Joseph Omo Oumari, 3939 N. Freeway #210, Houston, Texas 77022 (832-696-9204) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent.

Mr. William Beal, 4718 Boicewood, Houston, Texas 77016 (no phone) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent.

Ms. Annie Garcia, 6721 Dillonn, Houston, Texas 77061 (713-645-6401) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent.

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

Mr. Bryan Winston, 105 South Texas, Texas City, Texas 77591 (409-499-7081) appeared, presented information to Council Members and stated that he was an alumni of the University of Houston Center for Entrepreneurship and he was an entrepreneur; that they were working on a project which was in the information provided and he would like to see in which way the City of Houston could benefit from the project as well as in how they could offer support. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Green stated that the city offered several opportunities to partner and different departments had different outreach, it would be better for him to outline a specific event, etc., and draft a proposal and then speak with that department. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang and Rodriguez absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales thanked Mr. Winston for coming, for his hard work and stated that he would recommend the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau as they were always open to events which did attract people to Houston. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang and Rodriguez absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Christie stated that he was highly in favor of anything which promoted education. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Burks stated that he loved what he presented and he would like him to visit with him and explain it in detail so they could make it happen. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Steven Williams, no address (no phone) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding.

(NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Annie Garcia, 6721 Dillonn, Houston, Texas 77061 (713-645-6401), who was previously not present was in the Chamber, was again called and appeared and stated that she was a teacher and did not have confidence in the growth for their neighborhood with Angela's House moving in their area; that when the school recruited children from all over no one said Angela's House would be coming and all was full of lies. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Pauletta Harrison, 6310 Sandy Oaks, Houston, Texas 77050 (512-739-3627) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. James Partsch-Galvan, 1611 Holman, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-528-2607) appeared and stated that some Council Members had no business on Council; www.mayorgalvan.com; that he was present regarding unacceptable conditions at Moody Park such as water leaks in the field and parking lot; and the fact the park closed from dusk to dawn when it was now dark at 6:00 P.M.; and he wanted Houstonians to get better treatment in the Chamber. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Leticia Salinas, 2322 Straight Creek, Houston, Texas 77017 (713-505-5363) appeared and stated that she was present a few weeks ago and no one really knew of her case so she came again with hope someone had looked into it and she would get more than just empty words regarding her son-in-law's murder on August 11th and she was wanting proof someone was working the case. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Green absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Bradford stated that he spoke to the investigator assigned to her case and it was being actively pursued, there were aspects which could not be discussed publicly, but he would ask she allow investigators to use their expertise and follow the case through; that there were mistakes in the early hours of the case, but they did not jeopardize any aspect of the investigation; and upon questions, Ms. Salinas stated that she met with them last week but there were so many issues; that she was treated respectful last week. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Rodriguez, Green and Noriega absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales stated that if in any way she felt they were giving her shallow words during her last visit he did apologize; that he was trying to give her general information and shed light, he was not privy to all details of the investigation but he had been an investigator; and again offered condolences. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Rodriguez, Green and Noriega absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

President Joseph Charles, P. O. Box 524373, Houston, Texas 77052-73 (713-928-2800) appeared and stated that he was charging the Council and Mayor, they were still criminally withholding his property; and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Rodriguez, Green and Noriega absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

At 4:34 p. m. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales stated that City Council was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 19, 2012. Mayor Parker, Council Members Brown, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Rodriguez, Green and Noriega absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

The Houston City Council reconvened at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 19, 2012, with Mayor Annise D. Parker presiding and Council Members Helena Brown, Jerry Davis, Ellen R. Cohen, Wanda Adams, Mike Sullivan, Al Hoang, Oliver Pennington, Edward Gonzalez, James G. Rodriguez, Mike Laster, Larry V. Green, Stephen C. Costello, Andrew C. Burks, Jr., Melissa Noriega, C. O. "Brad" Bradford and Jack Christie, D.C.; Mr. David Feldman, City Attorney; Ms. Marta Crinejo, Agenda Director, and Ms. Stella Ortega, Agenda Office, present.

At 8:17 a.m. the City Secretary read the descriptions or captions of items on the Agenda.

At 9:07 a.m. Mayor Parker called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Russell, City Secretary, to call the consent agenda. Council Members Davis, Cohen, Adams, Rodriguez, Laster and Burks absent.

MAYOR'S REPORT

CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 42

MISCELLANEOUS - NUMBERS 1 and 2

1. REQUEST from Mayor for confirmation of the reappointment of the following individuals to the **PLANNING COMMISSION**, for terms to expire September 30, 2014:

Position Four	-	SUSAN ALLEMAN
Position Nine	-	LISA M. CLARK
Position Eleven	-	SHAUKAT ZAKARIA
Position Eighteen	-	PAUL R. NELSON
Position Twenty	-	ANTOINE BRYANT
Position Twenty-one	-	MEDARDO "SONNY" GARZA

- was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Davis, Cohen, Adams, Rodriguez and Burks absent. MOTION 2012-0851 ADOPTED.

2. REQUEST from Mayor for confirmation of the appointment or reappointment of the following individuals to the **REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER TWELVE, CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS (CITY PARK ZONE) BOARD OF DIRECTORS**:

KAREN J. DORRIS, reappointment, to serve as Chair, for a term to expire 12/31/2013

Position One	-	WILLIAM E. MORFEY , appointment, for a term to expire 12/7/2014
Position Three	-	MATTHEW K. ZEVE , appointment, for a term to expire 12/7/2014
Position Five	-	ROBBI J. JONES , reappointment, for a term to expire 12/7/2014

- was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Davis, Cohen, Adams, Rodriguez and Burks absent. MOTION 2012-0852 ADOPTED.

Mayor Parker stated that they had just affirmed reappointment of six members of the Planning Commission and knew that at least four of the members were present in the Chamber and invited them to the podium, and Council Members Hoang, Pennington, Adams, Gonzalez

and Davis congratulated the newly appointed or reappointed members to the Planning Department and thanked them for their service to the City of Houston. Council Member Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker further stated that earlier in the year they lost a long time Planning Commission Members, Ms. Kay Crooker, who was an outstanding citizen representative, but what made her stand out was that she took the time, if there was a contentious issue, to go and visit the site, she drove by the location and saw with her own eyes what the neighborhood problems were, she turned to the staff for information but she never completely relied on staff, she did her own research, that it was a good opportunity to again recognize her service and to thank the newly appointed or reappointed members to the Planning Department for stepping up into those roles that really did shape the future of Houston. Council Member Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated that they would return to the consent agenda. Council Member Noriega absent.

PROPERTY - NUMBERS 10 and 11

10. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney to purchase Parcels AY9-414 and KY10-132 in lieu of eminent domain proceedings styled City of Houston v. Son Hoang Nguyen & Cindy Lam, et al., Cause No. 1014098; for the **LONG POINT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (Pech - Hollister) DISTRICT A – BROWN** – was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Adams. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0853 ADOPTED.
11. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering, reviewed and approved by the Joint Referral Committee, on request from Brian Nawara, Texas Engineering and Mapping, on behalf of Tommie Vaughn Motors, Inc (Jim Janke, President), and V & G Realty Company, Inc (Jim Janke, President), declining the acceptance of, rejecting, and refusing the dedication of a 10-foot-wide alley, from North Durham Drive ±240 feet east to its terminus, located within the Shadywood Addition, Parcel SY13-030 - **DISTRICT C - COHEN** – was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Adams. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0854 ADOPTED.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS - NUMBERS 14 and 14A

14. ORDINANCE appropriating \$502,207.50 out of Metro Projects Construction DDSRF for purchase of Wi-Max Radio System Equipment for Public Works & Engineering Department – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1098 ADOPTED.
- 14a. **CONSOLIDATED TRAFFIC CONTROL, INC** for Wi-Max Radio System Equipment through the Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing with the Houston-Galveston Area Council for the Department of Public Works & Engineering – was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Adams. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0855 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 17 through 42

17. ORDINANCE finding and determining that public convenience and necessity no longer require the continued use as public street rights-of-way of McGee Street, from Hoffman Road West approximately 1,042 feet, a portion of Troost Street, from Hoffman Road West approximately 987 feet, and Hoffman Road, from Interstate Highway 610 north to Kelley

Street; vacating and abandoning the rights-of-way to the Harris County Hospital District, abutting owner, in consideration of its conveyance to the City of Houston, Texas, of a 60-foot-wide street right-of-way easement, construction of a street to City standards, payment to the City of \$92,041.00, and other consideration - **DISTRICT B - DAVIS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1099 ADOPTED.

18. ORDINANCE finding and determining that public convenience and necessity no longer require the continued use as public street rights-of-way of (1) Wheeler Street, from Deems Street to Lidstone Street, (2) Wheeler Street, from Lidstone Street to Brays Bayou, (3) Wheeler Street, from the northern boundary line of Tract 37, Luke Moore Survey, A-51, Harris County, Texas, to Old Spanish Trail, (4) 53,471 square feet of fee-owned Wheeler Street, from Brays Bayou to the northern boundary line of said Tract 37, and (5) Lidstone Street, from the former Lidstone Street to Brays Bayou; vacating and abandoning the rights-of-way to the Harris County Flood Control District and the Houston Parks Board, abutting owners, in consideration of (a) 12,402 square feet of right-of-way for the relocation of Lidstone Street, and (b) Five fee-owned parcels for park purposes; approving a form of Special Warranty Deed - **DISTRICT I - RODRIGUEZ** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1100 ADOPTED.
26. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Compromise and Settlement Agreement between the City of Houston and **STUDENT AID FOUNDATION ENTERPRISES** to settle a lawsuit \$120,000.00 - Property & Casualty Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1101 ADOPTED.
29. ORDINANCE appropriating \$685,168.04 out of Reimbursement of Equipment / Projects Fund for purchase of 75 parking pay stations for the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department – had not been received, and the City Secretary announced it would be considered at the end of the Agenda if received during the meeting. Council Member Noriega absent.
- 29a. **DIGITAL PAYMENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC** for 75 parking pay stations for the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department – had not been received, and the City Secretary announced it would be considered at the end of the Agenda if received during the meeting. Council Member Noriega absent.
31. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing third amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **G4S SECURE SOLUTIONS (USA) INC (Formerly the WACKENHUT CORPORATION)** (Approved by Ordinance 2009-572) for Security Guard Services for the City of Houston – had not been received, and the City Secretary announced it would be considered at the end of the Agenda if received during the meeting. Council Member Noriega absent.
32. ORDINANCE appropriating \$539,064.20 out of Police Consolidated Construction Fund for Purchase and Sale Agreement between **HOANG T. WOUNG** and **TULE VAN WOUNG** and the City of Houston for purchase of 3.291 acres of land located on Westplace Drive near South Gessner Road, for the purchase price of \$530,000.00 and associated closing costs in the amount of \$9,064.20 - **DISTRICT K - GREEN** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1102 ADOPTED.
35. ORDINANCE consenting to the addition of 15.4229 acres of land to **NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 19**, for inclusion in its district – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1103 ADOPTED.

36. ORDINANCE consenting to the addition of 17.3409 acres of land to **NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 19**, for inclusion in its district – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1104 ADOPTED.
38. ORDINANCE consenting to the addition of 83.503 acres of land to **NORTHPOINTE WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**, for inclusion in its district – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1105 ADOPTED.
39. ORDINANCE appropriating \$500,000.00 out of Metro Projects Construction DDSRF and approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **TEDSI INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP, INC** for Traffic Signal Management Program / Intelligent Transportation Systems; providing funding for CIP Cost Recovery relating to construction of facilities financed by the Metro Projects Construction DDSRF – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1106 ADOPTED.
40. ORDINANCE appropriating \$12,000.00 out of Metro Projects Construction DDSRF; approving and authorizing Professional Construction Management and Inspection Services Agreement between the City of Houston and **SOWELLS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT & INSPECTION, LLC** for Traffic Signalization and Intersection Redesign – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1107 ADOPTED.
41. ORDINANCE appropriating \$750,000.00 out of Metro Projects Construction DDSRF and approving and authorizing Professional Services Engineering Contract between the City of Houston and **OMEGA ENGINEERS, INC** for Negotiated Work Orders for Pre-Engineering of Thoroughfare Improvements; providing funding for construction of facilities financed by the Metro Projects Construction DDSRF – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1108 ADOPTED.
42. ORDINANCE appropriating \$592,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund as an additional appropriation for Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **LBG-GUYTON ASSOCIATES, INC** for services associated with the rehabilitation of water wells at various locations (Approved by Ordinance No. 2008-0086) and approving and authorizing third amendment to the contract; providing funding for CIP Cost Recovery relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICTS A - BROWN and K - GREEN** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1109 ADOPTED.

Council Member Rodriguez moved to suspend the rules to consider Item No. 19 out of order, seconded by Council Member Sullivan. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0856 ADOPTED.

19. ORDINANCE relating to employment terms and conditions of Classified Fire Fighters of the City of Houston; ratifying the amendment to the 2011 Agreement between the City of Houston and the **HOUSTON PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, also known as the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO-CLC, LOCAL UNION 341**, containing provisions relating to promotional testing of Classified Fire Fighters and containing other provisions relating of the foregoing subject; suspending the operation of certain ordinances; providing for severability - was presented.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that he wanted to thank the administration and the Houston Professional Fire Fighters for working together to get the issue resolved.

Mayor Parker stated that she wanted to thank the Council Members for their support of a very clear policy of making sure that the City and the Firefighters Union were at the table for negotiations at the conference table and that they did everything by the book.

Council Member Green stated that he too wanted to commend the administration and the Firefighters Association for working together to come to an agreement with regard to promotional testing.

A vote was called on Item No. 19. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-1110 ADOPTED.

MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE CONSIDERED AS FOLLOWS:

MISCELLANEOUS

3. RECOMMENDATION from Deputy Director Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations for renewal of Annual Membership in the **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL** - \$83,978.04 General Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Bradford

After discussion by Council Members vote was called on Item No. 3. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. Council Member Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0857 ADOPTED.

4. RECOMMENDATION from Director Houston Information Technology Services for allocation of funds in the amount of \$781,213.18 for FY13 Microsoft Software and License Maintenance Services for the fleet of City Desktops awarded to **DELL FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC** - Central Services Revolving Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Adams. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0858 ADOPTED.
5. ORDINANCE appropriating \$450,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund as an additional appropriation for West Little York Paving from T.C. Jester to Alabonson/Deep Forest under Construction Contract with **CONRAD CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.** (Approved by Ordinance No. 2011-0525) - **DISTRICTS A - BROWN and B - DAVIS** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-1111 ADOPTED.
- 5a. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$372,619.49 for the West Little York Paving from T.C. Jester to Alabonson/Deep Forest - **DISTRICTS A - BROWN and B - DAVIS** - was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0859 ADOPTED.

PROPERTY - NUMBERS 6 through 12

6. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney to deposit the amount of the Award of Special Commissioners into the Registry of the Court, pay the costs of Court and settle the case in connection with eminent domain proceeding styled City of Houston v. Shady Village, Inc.,

et al., Cause No. 1014943; for acquisition of Parcels AY8-291, LY8-038 & LY8-039; for the **YALE STREET PAVING & DRAINAGE PROJECT (Tidwell - W. Parker) - DISTRICT H - GONZALEZ** - was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Adams. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0860 ADOPTED.

7. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney to deposit the amount of the Award of Special Commissioners into the Registry of the Court, pay the costs of Court and settle the case in connection with eminent domain proceeding styled City of Houston v. Balearia L.L.C., a Texas Limited liability corporation, et al., Cause No. 1009726; for acquisition of Parcel AY10-219; for the **AIRLINE DRIVE PAVING & DRAINAGE PROJECT (N. Main - North Loop 610) - DISTRICT H - GONZALEZ** - was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Adams. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0861 ADOPTED.
8. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney to deposit the amount of the Award of Special Commissioners into the Registry of the Court, pay the costs of Court and settle the case in connection with eminent domain proceeding styled City of Houston v. Bao Van Ngo., d/b/a Happyland Food, et al., Cause No. 1015302; for acquisition of Parcel AY11-130; for the **RECONSTRUCTION OF PARKER ROAD PROJECT (Hardy Toll Road - Eastex Fwy.) DISTRICT H - GONZALEZ** - was presented, moved by Council Member Adams, seconded by Council Member Hoang. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0862 ADOPTED.
9. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney to settle eminent domain proceeding styled City of Houston v. Green & Fresh Produce, Inc., a Texas corporation, et al., Cause No. 994,116; for acquisition of Parcel AY10-205; for the **AIRLINE DRIVE PAVING & DRAINAGE PROJECT (N. Main - North Loop 610) - DISTRICT H - GONZALEZ** - was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Adams. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0863 ADOPTED.
12. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for purchase of Parcel LY10-045, located at the 7400 block of Northline Drive, owned by Turning Point Center, Inc., a Texas corporation f/k/a Rehab Mission, Inc., a Texas corporation, Isha Desselle, President, for the **NORTHLINE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT from Parker to Canino - DISTRICT H - GONZALEZ** - was presented, and tagged by Council Member Sullivan.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS

13. **THE FIBAR GROUP, LLC** for Surface Materials for Playgrounds and Jogging Trails for Parks & Recreation Department - 3 Years with two one-year options - \$256,669.30 - General Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Adams.

Council Member Christi asked if it did not make sense that the wood chips that they got from the forest station, after the hurricane, from the parks instead of giving it away should they not stockpile that and save a quarter of a million, and Mayor Parker stated that they used their own mulch as aggressively as they could and she would point out that there were a lot of dead trees out there right now, but they also needed different types of playground and trail surfaces, not everything was appropriate for just wood chips, so they do the appropriate type of surface depending on whether it was a children's playground or other types, that they used different processes depending on what type park surface they needed.

A vote was called on Item No. 13. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye.

MOTION 2012-0864 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES

15. ORDINANCE **AMENDING CHAPTER 46 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to the regulation of vehicles for hire; containing findings and other provisions related to the foregoing subject; declaring certain conduct to be unlawful; containing a repealer; containing a savings clause; providing for severability - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-1112 ADOPTED.
16. ORDINANCE creating a Pilot Program and authorizing the suspension of vehicle for hire age limitations for certain Manufacturer Model Year Taxicabs and Chauffeured Limousines - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-1113 ADOPTED.
20. ORDINANCE relating to the Retail Gas Utility Rates of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and as CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas; requiring a rate filing; maintaining current rates in effect until changed - was presented.

Council Member Sullivan stated that he wanted to ask Mr. Feldman, with the Mayor's permission, to kind of talk to them about the need to protest and move forward on Item No. 20 as it was listed in the RCA.

Mr. Feldman stated that as Council Members were aware gas utilities in Texas were a regulated utility, the City stood in the role of a municipal regulator, which created a legal obligation that they looked to the interest of both the utility, CenterPoint, and the rate payers and insure that the rates being charged were just and reasonable, that in connection back in July of 2012 Council, by ordinance, approved a Notice of Inquiry based on CenterPoint's March 2012 Earnings Report, which gave them some reason to believe that perhaps they may be over earning, that following up on Council's action further research and review was undertaken, that looking at a test year of September 2011 to September 2012 and as a result they were now going forward in asking for approval to institute a rate proceeding based on that test year of September 2011 to September 2012, that the reason why action was necessary at this time, and by January 2, 2013 at the latest if there was a tag, was because they had to get the matter before the Railroad Commission in terms of the filing of a rate package by March 30, 2012, six months after the test year, so to be timely they had to act now and by doing so, just as with the Notice of Inquiry, it would delay any rate increase in the interim, so that was the need for the filing at this point and time so that the City could fulfill it's role as municipal regulator; and Council Member Sullivan asked if a tag would be detrimental to the City at this point, and Mr. Feldman stated that as long as they could act by January 2, 2013 they would be fine, and Council Member Sullivan stated that he would tag Item No. 20.

Mayor Parker stated that she knew there were several Council Members who wanted to have further discussion on this, that because of the intervening holidays she would be glad to schedule a Mayor's Report on this specific subject so that they could have a full discussion at the beginning of the January 2, 2013 meeting.

21. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing agreement between the City of Houston and **JOHNSON & JOHNSON ACTIVITIES, INC** to provide a \$975,000.00 grant of Federal Community Development Block Grant Funds for costs associated with the acquisition and construction of a facility to be located in the vicinity of 14750 Fondren Road, Houston, Texas, which will serve low to moderate income seniors with special needs and persons with mental disabilities - **DISTRICT K - GREEN** - was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-1114 ADOPTED.

22. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing first amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **SEARCH HOMELESS SERVICES**, to provide up to \$70,000.00 for the continuing administration and operation of a Supportive Services Program under the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program - **DISTRICT D - ADAMS** - was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-1115 ADOPTED.
23. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing first amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON**, providing up to \$600,000.00 in Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS for the continuing operation of multiple Rental Assistance Programs with supportive services - **DISTRICTS C - COHEN and H - GONZALEZ** - was presented, and tagged by Council Member Rodriguez. (Note: Council Member Rodriguez released his tag later in the meeting.)
24. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing first amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **HOUSTON SRO HOUSING CORPORATION**, to extend the contract and provide up to \$92,490.00 for the continuing administration and operation of a community residence and the provision of supportive services for low-income and homeless persons under the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program - **DISTRICTS C - COHEN and D - ADAMS** - was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-1116 ADOPTED.
25. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Pre-Qualified Contractors for the City of Houston's Single-Family Home Repair Programs, including the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program - was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-1117 ADOPTED.
27. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Compromise and Settlement Agreement between the City of Houston and **JORGE MEDRANO, Individually, and FERNANDO MEDRANO as the Independent Administrator of the Estate of Estela E. MEDRANO, ALEJANDRO MEDRANO, FEDERICO MEDRANO, MARIANO MEDRANO and FERNANDO MEDRANO, Individually**; to settle a lawsuit related to a vehicular accident between an on-duty HPD Officer driving an HPD vehicle and vehicle driven by Jorge Medrano - \$262,500.00 - Property & Casualty Fund - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-1118 ADOPTED.
28. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the City of Houston to enter into contract with **HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** to administer an After School Achievement Program \$200,000.00 - CDBG Fund - **DISTRICTS A - BROWN; B - DAVIS; C - COHEN; D - ADAMS; E - SULLIVAN; I - RODRIGUEZ and K - GREEN** - was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-1119 ADOPTED.
30. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing second amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **SOGETI USA, LLC** for Software Design and Development Services (Approved by Ordinance No. 2009-863) - was presented, and tagged by Council Member Bradford.
33. ORDINANCE appropriating \$1,237,507.00 out of Parks Consolidated Construction Fund, awarding construction contract to **CARRERA CONSTRUCTION, INC** for Sam Houston 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 materials testing services, Civic Art Program and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Parks Consolidated Construction Fund, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Fund - \$895,500.00 - Grant Fund **DISTRICT I - RODRIGUEZ** - was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-1120 ADOPTED.

34. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Lease Agreement between **UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, as Landlord**, and the City of Houston, Texas, as tenant, for approximately 33,820 square feet of unimproved land for parking for the Houston Permitting Center; approving a payment of \$109,900.00 - Building Inspection Fund - **DISTRICT I – RODRIGUEZ** – was presented.

Council Member Pennington stated that the purchasing was for additional parking, that he knew they had a huge investment in the center and thought there were 550 parking places for employees and this would add some more, that he wondered if this was going to be enough, did they do the proper due diligence before they located the facility, that there was also a \$10 parking fee per day, that hopefully if somebody just went in to get a permit and were there for an hour they would not have to pay the \$10, that he was just concerned about the parking around the facility and maybe they could get a report from General Services as to what the usual needs were and how that was being handled, that he was concerned about the investment they had there and whether it was a good one in light of the parking limitations.

Mayor Parker stated that she would be happy to get a follow up report, this was their consolidated Permitting Center, there was a lot of public parking in front of the center, it was a heavily utilized building as he noted, that this was for additional overflow parking and employee parking, that they continued to look for opportunities to acquire additional land in the area to expand their parking, but she would point out that it was immediately across the street from their police and courts complex, that the site flowed with what they already had and they were acutely aware of longtime parking needs for the area, that she would have Parking Management provide a more complete picture.

A vote was called on Item No. 34. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-1121 ADOPTED.

37. ORDINANCE consenting to the addition of 48.1450 acres of land to **PORTER MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**, for inclusion in its district - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-1122 ADOPTED.

NON CONSENT AGENDA - NUMBER 43

MISCELLANEOUS

43. **SET A HEARING DATE** regarding the granting of a pipeline easement at Lake Houston Wilderness Park - **DISTRICT E – SULLIVAN - HEARING DATE - 9:00 A.M. - WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 16, 2013** – was presented.

Council Member Gonzalez moved to set a hearing for Wednesday, January 16, 2013, seconded by Council Member Hoang.

Council Member Sullivan stated that it was his last opportunity to talk about how great Lake Houston Wilderness Park was and the job that Joe Turner did for the City, but also the work that he did with Texas Parks and Wildlife and Commissioner Ed Rinehart in Montgomery County, that there were a lot of parties involved in the park and Joe continued to do a good job

representing them, they had a resident Park Manager, Paul, who did a phenomenal job, that he wanted to thank everyone involved with Lake Houston Wilderness Park. Council Member Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated that it was a great time to visit the park, it could be a little bit warm in the summer, that there were some wonderful cabins for rent out there. Council Member Noriega absent.

A vote was called on Item No. 43. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0865 ADOPTED.

MATTERS HELD - NUMBERS 44 through 49

44. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$5,392,363.11 and acceptance of work on contract with **ANGEL BROTHERS ENTERPRISES, LTD.**, for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Local Rehabilitation Projects STP 2010 (675) ES, etc. - 0.002% over the original contract amount and under the 5% contingency - **DISTRICTS A - BROWN; B - DAVIS; C - COHEN; F - HOANG; G - PENNINGTON; H - GONZALEZ; I - RODRIGUEZ and J - LASTER** – (This was Item 6 on Agenda of December 12, 2012, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DAVIS) – was presented.

Council Member Davis stated that he wanted to thank Public Works for assisting him and going out and doing a site visit afterwards to look at the completed project, that he wanted to thank Dan Melendez, Public Works Department. Council Member Noriega absent.

A vote was called on Item No. 44. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0866 ADOPTED.

45. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$1,889,172.50 and acceptance of work on contract with **MCKINNEY CONSTRUCTION, INC** for Water Line Replacement in Riverwood Estates & John Alber Areas 0.04% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICT B - DAVIS** – (This was Item 8 on Agenda of December 12, 2012, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DAVIS) – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0867 ADOPTED.

46. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing agreement for Professional Legal Services between the City of Houston and **ZUCKERT SCOUTT & RASENBERGER, LLP** for Specialized Aviation Legal Services for the benefit of the Houston Airport System; providing a maximum contract amount \$4,450,000.00 - Enterprise Fund - **DISTRICTS B - DAVIS; E - SULLIVAN and I - RODRIGUEZ** – (This was Item 39 on Agenda of December 12, 2012, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SULLIVAN) – was presented.

After a questions and discussion by Council Members, Mr. Feldman stated that Zuckert Scoutt & Rasenberger, who was a D.C. firm, had been performing legal services for the Houston Airport System for many years, that in consultation with Director Diaz he had recommended that before a new contract be given to that firm that an RFQ be sent out for legal services for the airport, just as they had for other parts of the City when he first became City Attorney, that was done, a number of firms proposed and Kaplan Kirsch, the firm in Item No. 47, gave them some outstanding advice in respect to the Southwest Airlines and United matter, so those two firms were selected and it was his belief that having two firms to call upon, not for redundancy, but for different expertise, was in the best interest of the City, so that was how that came about, that the \$4.45 million certainly sounded like a lot of money, it was to him, that it

was based on the historical usage of the Zuckert Firm, but obviously no obligation whatsoever to incur fees of that magnitude, and he worked with Director Diaz to try and watch the invoices closely; that they had four responses to the RFQ from firms outside the City, that Zuckert was in D.C. and Kaplan was in Denver, that there were a lot of specialty issues that arise with respect to FAA compliance, that as they knew it was a highly regulated field and there was constant interaction with the FAA, that dealing directly with the FAA and having an ongoing relationship with the FAA he had found was very significant and unfortunately the City did not offer sufficient salaries to draw people who had specific expertise in this area, that they did have lawyers, including himself, who spent a lot of time working on airport matters, but there were specific issues that required FAA experience that they simply did not have.

Mayor Parker stated that this begged a larger question that they should perhaps discuss, that virtually every other City of their size, and a number of smaller cities, had a full time City presence in their Nation's Capital and the City of Houston did not so they ended up using law firms and lobbyists to represent them up there, that they did have a full time presence in the Legislative session, for example, while the Legislation was in session, but at some point the City of Houston was going to have to decide whether it was worth the investment of a City staff presence fulltime in Washington and she thought they were getting to that point, they spent a great deal of money up there.

After further questions and discussion by Council Members, Mr. Feldman stated that a large number of Council Members were not aware of the fact that after this administration began and he was appointed City Attorney he did something that had never been done before in the City, he sent out RFQs for all legal firms who were interested in providing legal representation to the City of Houston and they developed panels for each area of expertise and he did so in addition to trying to obtain some economy in the expenditure of legal fees that had really been exorbitant under prior administrations, that he was also interested in creating a diverse group of firms and lawyers to do work for the City and he was very proud to say that was exactly what they had accomplished, that they used more minority firms today to do legal work for the City than had ever happened before, that this happened to be a particular area of expertise that they had to go out for specially and unfortunately no minority firms proposed.

Mayor Parker stated that as Mr. Feldman pointed out that when he first came in he took the additional step of doing another request for qualifications on this contract, that as he rightly pointed out her administration had been very aggressive about looking at any long term contract they had, sometimes at great pain at the Council table when they had changed long term vendors, they aggressively tried to see if there were better opportunities for them.

After further discussion by Council Members, a vote was called on Item No. 46. Council Member Green voting no, balance voting aye. Council Member Hoang absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1123 ADOPTED.

47. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing agreement for Professional Legal Services between the City of Houston and **KAPLAN KIRSCH & ROCKWELL, LLP** for Specialized Aviation Legal Services for the benefit of the Houston Airport System; providing a maximum contract amount \$1,400,000.00 - Enterprise Fund - **DISTRICTS B - DAVIS; E - SULLIVAN and I – RODRIGUEZ** – **(This was Item 40 on Agenda of December 12, 2012, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SULLIVAN)** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent. ORDINANCE 2012-1124 ADOPTED.
48. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **INTERVISTAS CONSULTING LLC** for Professional Aviation Consulting Services for the Houston Airport System; providing a maximum contract amount - \$1,875,000.00 - Enterprise Fund - **DISTRICTS B - DAVIS; E - SULLIVAN and I – RODRIGUEZ** – **(This**

was Item 43 on Agenda of December 12, 2012, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SULLIVAN) - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-1125 ADOPTED.

49. ORDINANCE appropriating \$2,182,000.00 out of HAS Consolidated 2001 NONAMT Construction Fund and \$16,748,000.00 out of Airports Improvement Fund as an additional appropriation for Construction Phase Services for the Design Building Agreement between the City of Houston and **MICA CORPORATION** (Approved by Ordinance No. 2012-472) for Exterior Way-Finding Roadway Signage at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston (Project No. 684); providing funding for engineering testing services and for contingencies; providing funding for the Civic Art Program - **DISTRICT B - DAVIS** – **(This was Item 44 on Agenda of December 12, 2012, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SULLIVAN)** – was presented.

After discussion by Council Member Sullivan a vote was called on Item No. 49. Council Member Sullivan voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-1126 ADOPTED.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he would release his tag on Item no. 23.

23. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing first amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON**, providing up to \$600,000.00 in Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS for the continuing operation of multiple Rental Assistance Programs with supportive services - **DISTRICTS C - COHEN and H – GONZALEZ** – was again before the City Council. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-1127 ADOPTED.

Items received during the meeting.

29. ORDINANCE appropriating \$685,168.04 out of Reimbursement of Equipment / Projects Fund for purchase of 75 parking pay stations for the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department – was presented.

Council Member Christi asked if the 75 pay stations was enough to cover the 270 spaces, and Mayor Parker stated yes.

A vote was called on Item No. 29. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-1128 ADOPTED.

- 29a. **DIGITAL PAYMENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC** for 75 parking pay stations for the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department – was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Hoang. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. MOTION 2012-0868 ADOPTED.

31. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing third amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **G4S SECURE SOLUTIONS (USA) INC (Formerly the WACKENHUT CORPORATION)** (Approved by Ordinance 2009-572) for Security Guard Services for the City of Houston – was presented.

Council Member Adams stated that this was another assessment to do on a current contract without needing any additional dollars, that it was a way to look at various facilities around the City of Houston to see what type of security needs were there, i.e., new gates or new cameras or whatever the need may be, that she wanted to thank General Services for coming up with that.

A vote was called on Item No. 31. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-1129

ADOPTED.

Mayor Parker stated that they would not be meeting again until the new year so she wanted to wish everybody a happy time off and a safe time off and a good New year.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Cohen stated that she wanted to thank all of her colleagues, those who had been on City Council when they came on and provided some advice and words of wisdom; that she wanted to thank her staff because there was no way she would have been able to accomplish the kind of things she did this year without their support; that for many of them growing up they were told that this Country was a melting pot, but over the years she had changed her philosophy and liked the tossed salad analogy that many of them used and that was that all of them were unique, they were in themselves exactly special to what they brought to the salad; that she wanted to thank Mayor Parker for her support and leadership throughout the year and Marta and Ms. Russell for all they did, that she wanted to wish everyone a happy, healthful and peaceful 2013. Council Member Hoang absent.

Council Member Christi stated that they welcomed some Japanese exchange students and their program, a Chinese and Iraqi delegation and it had been a very productive week and positive for the City. Council Members Hoang and Pennington absent.

Council Member Burks stated that he wanted to wish everybody happy holidays and to be safe. Council Members Hoang and Pennington absent.

Council Member Bradford stated that he wanted to say good luck and goodbye to a good colleague on Council, that he could appreciate the service that Council Member Sullivan had rendered, that it had been a true pleasure working with him and good luck and God speed, that he knew that public service was an opportunity to make a difference for the greater good of all, that he knew that public service was not easy, and he would say that as Council Member Sullivan went forward and embarked on his new position to understand and always remember that at the end of the day, when it was all said and done, it was not going to matter how many positions they held, titles they held or degrees, the question was going to be what had they done to help others. Council Members Brown, Hoang and Pennington absent.

Council Member Laster stated that he wanted to thank Council Member Sullivan for his service to the City and counsel to him in various time for the past year, that for all of his colleagues he wanted to wish them a safe and joyous holiday season and looked forward to working with them next year. Council Members Brown, Hoang and Pennington absent.

Council Member Costello stated that he wanted to wish Council Member Sullivan the best and would congratulate him and knew he would do an excellent job, even though they would not let him in the office right now, that he would trust that he would serve the citizens of the County as well as the citizens of Houston well; that he wanted to wish everybody the best and safe holidays. Council Members Brown, Hoang and Pennington absent.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that no one could say that Mike Sullivan had been consistent, he came in swinging and would be leaving swinging, that he wanted to congratulate him on his new office and looked forward to working with him for the betterment of their community, City and County; that to the Mayor and his colleagues happy holidays and hoped that everybody had a great time to decompress and spend quality time with their family and loved ones, God bless each and everyone of them. Council Members Brown, Hoang and Pennington absent.

Council Member Sullivan stated that he wanted to thank his colleagues for their comments; that he wanted to thank Station No. 103 for hosting him and Dave Martin for breakfast this week and thanks to Station Numbers 71 and 72 for having him and his daughter for dinner; that Thursday there would be an assembly, a follow up to the WATCO land item that they voted on a couple of weeks ago, at Woodlands Acres Elementary School where WATCO was going to make a substantial donation of audio visual equipment which the school had been needing for a long time; that he wanted to thank the citizens for the chance to represent District E. Council Members Brown, Hoang and Pennington absent.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that Council Member Sullivan had done a great job and it had been great to serve with him and he respected his advocacy for all of his constituents, that he appreciated all of his hard work; that he wanted to pay his condolences to all of the victims last Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary School, that even someone like himself having been a homicide investigator and having seen death and autopsies up close, he had been there when a father took the lives of his five children, even having experienced that this was something very difficult for all of them to take in, that it was something that he relied on his faith to hopefully get him through it, that he hoped they could find the right solutions to make sure they would never see this happen again, that his heart went out to all of the first responders, the teachers, the children and the families and those left behind to deal with everything; and announced events he attended or would be attending; and stated that while it was a time to celebrate he wanted to remind everyone to please be safe, that it was sometimes a common practice to do celebratory gunfire and he wanted to remind everyone that it was illegal and dangerous and to please make sure they did not practice that; that he wanted to thank his staff, the District H Team for all of their hard work throughout the year, that he wanted to thank all of his colleagues on Council, that he wanted to thank the Mayor for her leadership and support, Marta and her team for all they did, William Paul and Anna Russell for keeping them all in check and the press who came out every week and all those who came down each week for public session, that he wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2013. Council Members Brown, Hoang, Pennington and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Noriega stated that she too wanted to say farewell and God speed to her colleague Mike Sullivan, that it had been an honor and a pleasure serving with him, even arguing about pipelines, that they all had their differences and focuses, but everyone at the table worked hard and tried to represent the folks that sent them there and he had done an excellent job of that; that she knew that Kingwood and Clear Lake had both valued his service; that she would like also to thank her staff, that she wanted to thank all of her colleagues at the table for their thoughtfulness and the hard work that they did and their staff, who were great and responsive and everything with the At Large, that she wanted to commend the Mayor; that she too had many thoughts about the shooting in New Town, that when her son was little she often had a sort of vague feeling of unease when she did not have him with her, that they hand them to a school or day care and just hoped for the best, so the idea of having your child go off to school and not come home was horrifying and incredibly painful, that she was also very empathetic with the mother of the young man who did this, that she thought probably she had no idea what different to do and did not know what services he needed or what would have been helpful, that led her to a discussion of mental health, that she wanted to commend the Mayor for the discussion with the County about having a joint booking facility and the jail facility, that they had relegated their mental health services in their culture these days to the jails, that was not an appropriate place to have mental health dealt with, but where they started with many people and the better job they did with it the less problems they were going to have with concerns like this, so it was a beginning to work with the County to do that, that she thought they needed to reevaluate their mental health facilities and they needed to be able to make records available for background checks, about 40% of weapons sold did not have adequate background checks, they did not update the records frequently enough, that Colorado had the Aurora shooting and were ahead of them and working on things, but she thought they could

take a page from Colorado in the things they were doing to try to make the background check process more effective, that if they stopped selling weapons tomorrow there were still enough guns in the County to hurt a lot of school children and she did not know what to do about that, but thought that the mental health piece of it they did have some responsibility for, so she was challenging all of their delegations and all of them as folks that had health and human service responsibilities to look at how they could improve services; blessings to all of the folks in Houston and to be safe. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Adams stated that their office received a call from a citizen in the district who was concerned about Mr. Karl Teagan stating that he was living in deplorable conditions and a staff member completed a site visit and found that the conditions were unimaginable and reviewed before and after photos displayed on the television, that Mr. Teagan was a U.S. veteran who lived in District D, that with the help of the Department of Neighborhoods and the Health Department they were able to assist Mr. Teagan, that she wanted to thank all involved, that this was the true meaning of Christmas, giving to someone who was less fortunate; and Council Member Adams announced events she attended or would be attending; that she wanted to thank her staff for making sure they provided public service throughout the district. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she wanted to thank Council Member Adams for showing them the pictures, that she was glad that Council Member Adams called on the Department of Neighborhoods, the new department was about helping solve problems and she identified a problem, took the lead and did a great job. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Council Member Green announced events he attended or would be attending; and stated that he wanted to thank Mayor Parker for her commitment to youth, as well as Joe Turner and Lucy, today they approved After School Programs, that 3 schools in their district would have the opportunity to participate in the program, Fondren Elementary, Hobby Elementary and Forester Elementary; that he wanted to thank his staff, they had worked very hard this year; that he wanted to wish Mayor Parker and Council Members happy holidays and Merry Christmas. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Council Member Davis stated that he wanted to thank Ms. Vernita who took them in almost a year ago to show them the ropes; that he wanted to thank Council Members Costello, Bradford, Noriega and Adams for helping them get everything together and also Sherri and Donald and his staff and interns that they had for the last year, that he wanted to thank the Mayor and her administration for the support and efforts that they put forth to change the face and culture of District B; that he wanted to thank Council Member Cohen for sharing her Hanukah traditions with him and in her honor for the Hanukah traditions they would increase the amount of fried wings and catfish at the Breakfast Klub for this upcoming holiday season; and Council Member Davis announced events he attended or would be attending; that he wanted to thank Coach Nolen for helping the football team become victorious over O'Conner last weekend, 15 to 17, that they now had the Lamar Redskins to play in the championship game on Saturday in Dallas, Texas at 8:00 p.m. versus Allen. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Council Member Adams stated that she wanted to thank all of colleagues for their condolences for the passing of her grandmother and to the constituents; that she wanted to say happy holidays to everyone, and she wanted to thank all of the City of Houston employees for what they had done to help each Council office throughout the year, that she wanted to thank Mayor Parker for her leadership and partnership with District D this year; that she wanted them to have a safe and happy holiday season and to drive safely; that anyone who needed smoke

detectors could call the Houston Fire Department, they had those available because the weather would change. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she wanted to thank Council Member Adams for referencing the smoke detectors, they had had a very warm winter thus far, they knew it would get cold again and they lose people and houses with people trying to stay warm, that the City of Houston, through grant funds, had smoke detectors that were available for people who could not otherwise afford them, that they also had smoke detectors that were available for people who were deaf or hard of hearing and they had help to have those installed, if they would contact the Houston Fire Department they would be glad to get onto that; that Friday evening she happened to have the Fire Chief at her home and in the middle of the evening her smoke detector started beeping so she dragged out the ladder and the Fire Chief himself climbed up and replaced the battery in her smoke detector. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Council Member Green forgot to mention that in the assembling of bikes they brought in an expert, their own photographer, Tony, actually came out and assembled about 15 to 20 bikes for the kids, that he wanted to publicly thank him for coming out and helping them assemble those bikes. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she was in District K over the weekend with Elves and More, they did 10,000 bikes across the City of Houston, just that organization, that it was a phenomenal effort, that the reason that bikes were so important was that bikes got kids outdoors, off of the couches and away from the tv sets and for the older kids it was transportation, exploring the world and for some of them it was even getting to a job, so bikes were a wonderful gift, as long as they got the helmet to; that she wanted to wish everyone a great, safe and prosperous New Year, that 2013 had to be better than 2012. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 10:42 a.m. Council Members Brown, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington and Noriega absent.

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

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

/S/Anna Russell

Anna Russell, City Secretary