



PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HOUSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TEAM UP FOR TOY GIVEAWAY

1,000 youngsters to receive toys at four City of Houston parks

The Houston Police Department, the Greater Houston Police Activities League (GHPAL), and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department are teaming up for a toy giveaway on **Thursday, December 16, 2021** at four City of Houston parks. The event is called the *Houston Holiday Spirit Toy Drive*. A ceremony featuring **HPD Chief Troy Finner**, and **Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director Kenneth Allen**, will be held at **Crestmont Park (5200 Selinsky)** beginning at **4 p.m.** Altogether, one thousand toys will be distributed to HPARD After-School Enrichment Program youth attending Marian Park, Moody Park, Love Park, and Crestmont Park. All of the parks are located in some of the city's most under-resourced communities.

"The Houston Police Department is all about helping the community," said Troy Finner, Houston Police Chief. "We know how this toy giveaway event will lift the spirits of the young people in these communities. But what it does for the hearts and minds of members of the Police Department cannot be put into words. And I'm sure our partners at the Parks Department feel the same way."

The holiday toy giveaway kicks off an exciting new partnership between the Parks Department and HPD that aims to strengthen the connection between the community and the Police Department.

"We are thankful to the Houston Police Department and the Greater Houston Police Activities League for their partnership," said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

"Their generosity in partnering with the Parks Department has made this event possible and will help make the holidays a little brighter for department's After-School Enrichment youngsters."

The toy giveaway was made possible by a generous donation from Joseph House Community Outreach Center and Pastor, Founder, and Executive Director, Robert Stearns. For more information on the Greater Houston Police Activities League and their programs, visit

<https://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/ghpal.htm>. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, please visit www.houstonparks.org.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 381 parks and over 39,501 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all ages and abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.