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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT: Estella Espinosa**

Work: (832) 395-7022

Cell: (832) 465-4782

## **MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO UNVEIL RENOVATED WALTER J. RASMUS, SR. PARK IN SOUTHWEST HOUSTON**

Mayor Sylvester Turner and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovated Walter J. Rasmus, Sr. Park on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. The park is located at 3721 Jeanetta in Southwest Houston. The \$1,046,284 (Design \$119,045/Construction \$927,239) renovation includes a new playground, new walking trail, new furnishings, fencing, a parking lot upgrade, landscaping, and drainage improvements. Funding for the renovations was provided through the Parks and Recreation Dedication Fund and the Contributed Capital Project Fund.

“Walter J. Rasmus, Sr. Park is a fixture in Southwest Houston,” said Mayor Sylvester Turner. “This neighborhood park has deep roots in the community, and that is because the Rasmus family is still very active in Houston. Walter Rasmus dedicated his life to improving the lives of his neighbors. This park is another example of the City’s commitment to making neighborhood parks places of pride in Houston.”

The nearly 9-acre park, originally called Blossom Heights, was acquired by the City of Houston in 1960. In 1989, it was renamed after Walter J. Rasmus, Sr., a community leader in the neighborhood. Among his numerous accomplishments, Mr. Rasmus helped establish a free school bus service that allowed Black students in the community to further their education at Booker T. Washington High School, at the time the only secondary school for Black people in the City. He also provided a mule-drawn wagon to bring food and clothing from the downtown area to friends and neighbors in his community. Walter J. Rasmus, Sr. died in 1977 at the age of 95.

“The Parks Department is extremely proud to be a part of this transformation of Walter J. Rasmus Sr. Park,” said Kenneth Allen, Interim Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “We know what this park means to the community and the Rasmus family. We want to continue to make sure that it holds a special place for everyone who visits.”

Walter J. Rasmus, Sr. Park is located in City Council District J, represented by City Council Member Edward Pollard.

ages and abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).