

# News Release



For Immediate Release

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## City Recognizes the Downtown Super Neighborhood Council

**HOUSTON, March 29, 2011** – Mayor Parker and the Houston City Council officially recognized the Downtown Super Neighborhood Council. They successfully completed all the preliminary steps, which include gathering diverse stakeholder representation, creating an organizational structure and drafting by-laws. There are 56 recognized super neighborhood councils.

Downtown is the birthplace of Houston and is home to the Market Square Historic District with some of Houston's oldest historic buildings. The construction of a ring of freeways in the 1960s and 1970s created the modern boundaries of downtown. This area includes state of art performing art facilities, major government, banking, energy interests, the George R. Brown Convention Center and University of Houston Downtown. Loft conversions in older, often vacant office/commercial buildings are adding a new and welcome residential element to downtown along with a thriving nightlife, restaurant and club scene. Downtown includes quality park space such as Discovery Green and Market Square Park that includes places for performances, dog runs and other activities. Two sports stadiums, Minute Maid Park and the Toyota Center give the downtown area additional interest.

The area includes the East Downtown Management District, whose vision for East Downtown or EaDo is "of a well-planned, high quality community, integrating regional and metropolitan commercial development with a stable, desirable residential neighborhood."

At the recognition ceremony, the council was introduced to their city liaison. The liaison helps the council with their super neighborhood action plan, which identifies and prioritizes improvement projects and helps the council shepherd priority projects through the appropriate city processes. Downtown's liaison is Conya Barreras in the Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office.

We believe that super neighborhoods offer communities a way to communicate more effectively with the City and for residents and stakeholders a way to communicate more effectively with each other," said Marlene L. Gafrick, director of the Planning and Development Department. "It's an exciting dynamic for these neighborhoods and a great way for neighborhoods to implement projects." For more information about the Super Neighborhood Initiative, call the Planning and Development Department at (713) 837-7701 or go to [www.houstonplanning.com](http://www.houstonplanning.com).

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