



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS

SYLVESTER TURNER
MAYOR

August 12, 2022

The Honorable Kim Ogg
Harris County District Attorney
500 Jefferson, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear District Attorney Ogg:

As you know, Houston is now the largest city in the country with no abortion services. As Mayor, I am deeply concerned about the extreme negative impact this will have on every area in which the City is making progress for women and their families in Houston. Senate Bill 8 and the Dobbs decision have criminalized abortion, with no exceptions. The deleterious impacts of these legislative and legal assaults on human rights cannot be overstated, especially on our traditionally marginalized communities of color, lower income, and those with inconsistent access to healthcare.

I intend to remind Houstonians that no law exists, which punishes a pregnant person for seeking care and urges pregnant people who are concerned about their health (such as in the event of miscarriage) to seek medical care with their physician, an ER or urgent care center, and commit to protect any individual seeking such care from frivolous prosecution. Through Executive Order, I will commit to the legal protection of all medical personnel assisting people suffering from complications of miscarriage, abortion, or self-managed abortion as it is their ethical responsibility to do so.

Except to the extent otherwise required by state or federal law, City resources, including, for example, funds, personnel, or hardware, will not be used to create any record of any information related to an individual seeking abortion, miscarriage, or any other event that could be prosecuted as a violation of state law criminalizing or creating civil liability for pregnancy outcomes.

Investigations of any allegation, charge, or information relating to a pregnancy outcome or any party thereto will be the lowest priority for enforcement and the use or assignment of resources and personnel, except in cases of conduct that is criminally negligent to the health of the pregnant person seeking care, where coercion or force is used against the pregnant person, or where the pregnancy outcome is not the crime being investigated but evidence of another crime, such as sexual assault.

As a supporter of women's rights and a defender of legal and human rights in general, I urge you in your official capacity as District Attorney to adopt a similar policy that would de-prioritize these types of offenses and preserve your limited resources for critical needs such as investigating and solving violent crimes that are a clear and present danger to the people of Houston.

Sincerely,


Sylvester Turner
Mayor