



City of Houston

**Ronald C. Green
City Controller**

Media Alert/Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Roger Widmeyer
832-393-3407

City of Houston to Host Investor Conference Investors to Get Up Close and Personal Overview of City

HOUSTON TX –The City of Houston will host its first Investor Conference, March 27, 2013, at the Hilton Americas Hotel. The day-long Houston Investor Conference will explore strategies, trends and opportunities for future investment in the City of Houston and will feature presentations on city debt issues, along with panel discussions from senior finance officials. Mayor Annise Parker will offer opening remarks and City Controller Ronald Green will serve as the conference moderator.

The Houston Investor Conference will give investors a current snapshot of the City’s financial and operational data and allow City financial experts to differentiate its credits from other comparable credits in the market. Importantly, the conference allows City personnel to speak directly with institutional investors and answer specific questions concerning the City’s expected growth.

“Tax exempt municipal bonds have been a mainstay for cities for a century,” says Houston City Controller Ronald Green. “Three quarters of all public infrastructure built by states and cities is financed by these bonds, so in a very real way the bonds contribute to job growth as well as sales and property tax revenue while keeping homeowners safe from escalating taxes. It’s important to note that Houston voters have overwhelmingly approved bond ordinances over the years, and we are very excited to have this opportunity to ‘show off’ Houston to our conference attendees.”

Cities utilize municipal bonds to finance their capital projects such as roads and highways, water projects and schools, and cities save from 25 to 30 percent on interest costs with tax exempt “muni” bonds. Muni bonds have been so popular and successful for cities because they are exempt from federal taxes for the investor and the default risk is very low. Cities and states can pay bond investors lower interest rates than a corporation could, for example, because investors know their earnings won’t be taxed.

“Houston, the nation’s fourth-largest city, is a place of opportunity,” says Mayor Annise Parker. “Widely known as the energy capital of the world, Houston’s diverse business sector has played a major role in the global economy. We are a future-oriented city at the leading edge of several high-growth sectors such as energy, health, science and transportation/logistics. Houston is also helping to lead the nation with its ambitious sustainability efforts and green initiatives.”

Presenters and their topics at the Houston Investor Conference are:

- Kelly Dowe, Director of Finance, General Fund Update and Outlook
- Brenda Bazan, Chief Financial Officer, Houstonfirst
- Mario Diaz, Director, Houston Airport System
- Susan Bandy, Deputy Director, Public Works and Engineering

Opening remarks are at 8:45 a.m.; presentations begin at 9 a.m.

The featured luncheon speaker is Professor Stephen L. Klineberg, Co-Director, The Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University, who will discuss the latest data he has collected for the annual Houston Survey.

The Houston Investor Conference will conclude with tours of the downtown Convention and Entertainment facilities and Bush Intercontinental Airport.

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