

Houston City Council Member At-Large, Position 5

March 25, 2024

The Honorable Al Green 3003 South Loop West, Suite 460 Houston, TX 77054

Dear Representative Green,

The City of Houston is committed to expanding access to electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities across its diverse communities. Currently, the majority of publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure is concentrated along major freeway corridors and predominantly affluent areas in the west and southwest parts of the city. There is a noticeable lack of such infrastructure in census tracts with higher percentages of low-income households or minority populations.

To rectify this imbalance, the city plans to leverage libraries, community centers, and parks, which are more evenly distributed, as potential sites for expanding the charging infrastructure. This strategic move will significantly increase the availability of charging stations in areas currently underserved.

If awarded from your congressional district, the city pledges to allocate 100% of the Community Funded Projects (CFP) dollars towards projects located within the Justice40 Disadvantaged Communities census tracts. This funding will also be used to strategically place Direct Current Fast Charging stations close to designated alternative fuel corridors and areas with a high density of multi-family housing units. The City of Houston is committed to a co-design approach, involving the community in the process.

Furthermore, the city plans to engage private sector partners through a Request for Proposals process. Preference will be given to proposals that include innovative strategies such as:

- Prioritizing sites in low-to-moderate income (LMI) neighborhoods
- Implementing varied pricing or funding models for LMI communities
- Considering multimodal transportation options, such as accessibility to electric bicycles
- Encouraging extensive community engagement and input during project design

These initiatives align with the City's Climate Action Plan and Resilient Houston Plan, both launched in 2020. These plans set a community-wide goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The expansion of fleet electrification and access to EV charging stations are key components of these ambitious environmental goals. Houston's future is intertwined with the promise of a more resilient city. I look forward to your favorable consideration of our funding request.

Warm regards,

Sallie Olm