

**HOUSTON  
CITY  
COUNCIL  
DISTRICT  
G**



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# News From District G

March-April 2012

## To The Residents of District G:

### District G Salutes Fallen Hero Senior Captain Thomas W. ("Bill") Dillion



District G mourns the loss and celebrates the life of Houston Fire Department Station 69's (located at Beltway 8 and Briar Forest) Senior Captain Thomas W. ("Bill") Dillion, who died in the Line of Duty on March 14. Captain Dillion, 49, has been with HFD since June, 1989.

"I extend by deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to Captain Dillion's family and friends and to the Houston Fire Department on this great loss" said Council Member Pennington. "I was honored to attend Captain Dillion's Memorial Service and am proud to learn he was a consummate professional, truly dedicated to his job and to the well-being of the citizens of Houston, and enjoyed the benefit of a close and loving family."

The Dillion family and the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association asked that, in lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to help the family should send donations to the 100 Club. The 100 Club, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that offers assistance to the survivors of fallen firefighters and police officers, announced that donations are being accepted to its Survivors Fund to help the Dillion family.

Contributions can be made at <http://www.the100club.org>, or mailed to:

100 Club Survivor's Fund  
5555 San Felipe St., Ste. 520  
Houston TX 77056-2733



One-hundred percent of "Survivor's Fund" donations go to the dependents of law-enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.



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## Out and About in District G



During the last couple of months, Council Member Pennington was busy attending City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings. In addition, Council Member Pennington and/or District G staff attended the following meetings/events outside the office:

- Mid-West Super Neighborhood #20 Annual Meeting
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood #17 Meeting
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood #18 Meeting
- Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee Meetings
- Memorial Super Neighborhood #16 Meeting
- Long-Term Financial Management Task Force Meetings
- HPD Midwest Division Positive Interaction Program
- Memorial Drive Reconstruction Technical Review Committee
- Charting Buffalo Bayou Public Meeting
- District A Annual CIP Meeting
- Chapter 42 Land Use Ordinance Public Meeting
- Grand Opening of the Meadow Wood Elementary School
- Taxicab Stakeholders Meeting
- Meeting with TIRZ 17 Management
- Core Services Presentations to Council
- Houston Women's Chamber Reception
- Uptown Kirby Meeting
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce Star Awards Ceremony
- Westchase Library Loop Trail Ground Breaking Ceremony
- Meeting with District G Super Neighborhood Presidents
- Lakeside Breakfast Club
- Meetings re: Grady Park Renovations and Funding
- HPD Westside Division Positive Interaction Program
- Johnson Space Center Tour
- Pre-CIP Meeting with City Department Representatives
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Houston Bar Association Leon Jaworski Awards Ceremony
- Harris County Flood Control District W-151 Public Meeting
- Meeting with Energy Corridor Management
- Meeting with Houston West Chamber of Commerce Management
- Meeting with and tour of the East End Management District
- District G Annual CIP Meeting
- Texas ESGR Annual Employer Awards Dinner
- Meeting with Westside HPD Captain Michael Skillern
- Trash Bash 2012 at Terry Hershey Park

If you wish Council Member Pennington to attend your HOA/POA/Civic Club meeting, please contact our office at:  
[Districtg@houstontx.gov](mailto:Districtg@houstontx.gov).

## Single Family Residential Water Rates Rose 8.9% on April 1



An ordinance passed in 2010 requires the City's combined utility system to implement an annual water rate adjustment which became effective on April 1, 2012. The required water and wastewater rate adjustment for FY2012 is 3.3% (this is based on the regional consumer inflation plus population percentage increase for Houston).

For calendar year 2011, the Houston, Galveston, Brazoria Urban Area CPI is 3.3% and the population increase is zero. Single family residential rates will see an additional adjustment this year

(and another one next year) to bring the combined utility system's single family residential rates in line with the system's cost of service for this rate category.

Beginning April 1, 2012, the single family residential rates are scheduled to raise by 5.6% in addition to the CPI adjustment, for a total increase of 8.9%. District G constituents should keep in mind that **Council Member Pennington** was one of three Council Members who voted **against** these rate increases (Ordinance #2010-305).

## UPDATE: Proposed Chapter 42 (Land Development Ordinance) Amendments

The administration has provided City Council and the public proposed amendments to Chapter 42 of the Houston Code of Ordinances governing land development. Four public meetings were held around the City to discuss these proposed amendments and obtain stakeholder feedback. Our office is in the process of working with the Planning & Development and Public Works & Engineering Departments to ascertain the effect of the proposed amendments on drainage and traffic, the two most common complaints heard at the public meetings.

Chapter 42 amendments address a number of topics:

- Average lot size/lot width in new subdivision plats
- Creation of guest parking for certain single-family residential units
- Redefining the width and length of shared driveway developments
- Requiring sign posting in residential subdivisions which contain certain reserves
- Establishing a protocol for naming partial replats
- Extending the "Urban Area" beyond Loop 610 to the Beltway
- Allowing building line overhang encroachments of 30 inches and allowing a five foot building line encroachment for outside stairs or wheelchair ramps
- Surveyed site plans for single-family residential plats
- Resolving the conflict between Chapter 42 and the Design Manual for Lift Station Sites

A Summary of Proposed Amendments to Chapter 42:

[http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/docs\\_pdfs/Chapter42\\_Proposed-Summary.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/docs_pdfs/Chapter42_Proposed-Summary.pdf)

The Proposed Amendments to Chapter 42:

[http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/docs\\_pdfs/Chapter42\\_Proposed-Ordinance.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/docs_pdfs/Chapter42_Proposed-Ordinance.pdf)

Additional Proposed Amendments to Chapter 42 Regarding Minimum Lot Size and Building Lines:

[http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/docs\\_pdfs/Chapter42\\_Proposed-MinimumLotSize.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/docs_pdfs/Chapter42_Proposed-MinimumLotSize.pdf)

Keep in mind that **the new "Urban Area" regulations will not apply in any subdivision with valid deed restrictions that: prohibit the subdivision of lots, set minimum lot sizes, restrict land use to single family residential use, and provide for building setbacks (either in the deed restrictions themselves or by reference to a recorded plat showing the building setback lines).** District G constituents residing between I-10 on the North, Loop 610 on the East, Westheimer on the South, and Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Tollway) on the West should carefully review their deed restrictions to determine whether these items are adequately covered.



## Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Project Withdrawn

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Application for the Campanile on Briar Forest (a senior living facility proposed to be located at Briar Forest @ Highway 6) was withdrawn by the developer given the lack of support by the surrounding communities.

At a recent Houston City Council meeting, Council Member Pennington offered a motion to refer back to the Administration the developer/applicant's request for a supporting resolution relating to this project. This motion was unanimously passed by Council. The effect of this referral motion is that the proposed project was withdrawn from consideration this year.

Throughout this entire process, Council Member Pennington was actively engaged with area stakeholders including the Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood, its officers, area HOAs and numerous residents in considering their concerns and level of opposition to this project.

Council Member Pennington would like to thank Doug Parrish, the President of the Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood, for his work on this matter. He would also like to thank Judy Thompson, who addressed City Council on behalf of the Super Neighborhood and a number of HOAs. Council Member Pennington always appreciates and relies upon input from his constituents, particularly in matters of neighborhood concerns.



# HOUSING



## Memorial Super Neighborhood Honors Two HPD Officers



The Memorial Super Neighborhood #16 presented its Quarterly Law Enforcement Award to the two-officer unit of Officer Brittany Thaler and Officer Mirescha Blackmon, who are assigned to a beat within the Super Neighborhood. Officer Thaler and Officer Blackmon are always near or at the top of their beat in productivity, calls for service run, tickets written, and suspects arrested. Over the last six months they have been responsible for 60 arrests, including 10 felonies. They have also been the primary unit on 524 calls for service and the back-up unit on 132 additional calls for service.

They have recently done two notable things. One case involved the abuse of an elderly woman in a nursing home who was beaten by her caretaker. The crime was so despicable and shocking the officers went beyond the call of duty to personally file an arrest warrant so the suspect could be apprehended as quickly as possible. Second, they arrested a shoplifter from the mall and transported him to jail. While on the way back to their beat, their Lo-Jack went

off alerting them to a stolen vehicle in the area. They found a stolen truck and began to give chase. The pursuit went out 290 all the way to Waller County where the vehicle finally lost control. At the end of the pursuit, not only did they arrest the driver of the vehicle for two felony charges, they also found that the truck contained 10 illegal immigrants that they were able to turn over to ICE.

Their divisional commander, Captain Michael Skillern, commented that he is “very honored to have both of these young officers under my command. Their outstanding commitment and dedication to the area citizens is something we strive to achieve in all of our officers. Daily they show concern for the citizens of Houston and have little tolerance for those who prey on them. I am very glad the Memorial Super Neighborhood chose them to honor with this award.”

Keep up the excellent work Officers Thaler and Blackmon!!



**Greg Sergesketter, President of the Memorial Super Neighborhood, HPD Officer Brittany Thaler, HPD Assistant Police Chief John Chen, HPD Officer Mirescha Blackmon, and HPD Westside Captain Michael Skillern**



## Additional Funding Approved for Larchmont Neighborhood Street Reconstruction (CIP #N-000385)



New District G constituents living in Larchmont will be pleased to learn that additional funding has been approved by City Council in connection with their Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Project.

Funding for Phase I (Preliminary Design) was approved by City Council on June 1, 2011. Council Member Pennington is pleased to announce that City Council recently approved additional funding to the consultant, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., in the amount of \$821,939.81 for Phase II (Final Design) and Phase III (Construction Phase Services). The funds will come out of the new Rebuild Houston Dedicated Drainage and Street Renewal Fund.

Our office has received a number of complaints about the flooding that is caused by water flowing off of Highway 59 and not going into a storm drain, but flowing into the southern boundary of Larchmont. We have consulted with the city's engineer working on this project and he assures our office that their design for the new storm sewers in the neighborhood in connection with the NSR will specifically address this issue.

Additional drainage improvements will be provided to Larchmont when the Harris County Flood Control District goes to Phase III of the W-129 reconstruction project (they are currently working on Phase II, the stretch from San Felipe to just north of Richmond Avenue). This will help solve the issue of back-flow from the Westpark storm sewer pipes.

Phase III, which has not yet been designed and which has not yet been funded for construction, will span from Richmond Avenue to Westpark Drive. When all three phases are complete, there will be reduced risk of flooding to Larchmont and other surrounding neighborhoods and commercial areas.

You can keep updated on the W-129 project at the Harris County Flood Control District Website: [www.hcfc.org/W129](http://www.hcfc.org/W129)

The streets covered by the Larchmont NSR are:

- Beverly Hill from Chimney Rock to Barrington
- Barrington from Richmond to Windswept
- Judalon from Chimney Rock to South Rice
- Lincrest from Chimney Rock to cul-de-sac east of Barrington
- Pagewood from Chimney Rock to South Rice
- Schumacher from Chimney Rock to South Rice
- Windswept from Barrington to South Rice
- Yorktown from Windswept to Dead-end

Current Schedule (those items marked "expected" are subject to change):

Design Notice to Proceed:  
06-20-11 (actual)

Preliminary Engineering Report Approval:  
12-19-11 (actual)

Planned Design Completion:  
08-22-13 (expected)

Planned Advertisement:  
10-10-14 (expected)

Construction Contract Award:  
01-28-15 (expected)

Targeted CIP Construction Fiscal Year:  
2015 (expected)



## District G CIP Meeting Draws Large Crowd



The annual District G Capital Improvement Plan meeting was held March 19, and was widely attended by concerned residents. The meeting featured a presentation by Mayor Annise Parker, an overview of ReBuild Houston by Public Works & Engineering Deputy Director Dale A. Ruddick, P.E., and presentations by various Department representatives. It also featured presentations by the Memorial Super Neighborhood, the Eldridge/

West Oaks Super Neighborhood, the Briar Forest Super Neighborhood, the Energy Corridor District, the Westchase District, and numerous concerned constituents. Council Member Pennington thanks the hundreds of residents who attended our CIP meeting and shared their views with City representatives and the public.

Remember that anyone wishing to submit a CIP project to the City for consideration may do so at any time via the 3-1-1 online service request portal: [www.houston311.org](http://www.houston311.org) (select "Traffic, Streets and Drainage" then, under "Capital Improvement Projects, Streets and Drainage" select "New Capital Improvement Project Request"). After entering your email address (or choosing to submit the 3-1-1 request anonymously), you will be asked for an address. Whether you are giving a specific address or an intersection of two roadways, enter ONLY the NAME of the street (without N., S., E., or W.) and DO NOT use "Street", "Road", "Lane", "Avenue", etc.

## UPDATE: Harris County Flood Control District W-129— Bridge Construction Delayed Until Fall 2012

**EXPECT MAJOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND DELAYS WHILE THE WESTHEIMER AND SAN FELIPE BRIDGE WORK IS BEING COMPLETED**

As our area constituents are hopefully now well aware, Bridges at San Felipe Street and Westheimer Road that cross a drainage ditch formally identified as W129-00-00 are expected to be completely or partially closed temporarily to facilitate the construction of new bridges to replace the 50+ year old wooden bridges where Westheimer and San Felipe cross the drainage ditch. While the Flood Control District had originally scheduled the closing of these two bridges for sometime this spring, recent changes in the construction schedule have delayed the expected bridge closures—as of April 2012, the work at Westheimer is expected to begin in the fall of 2012 and the work at San Felipe is expected to begin in the spring of 2013. As soon as we learn a more specific date, we will provide another update. These dates are subject to change.

The two bridges will be reconstructed as part of the Flood Control District's W129-00-00 Conveyance Improvements Project. The bridge reconstruction projects will require all lanes on the San Felipe bridge to be closed for up to two weeks and traffic flow on the Westheimer bridge to be limited to one lane in each direction for up to a month.



For more information about the project, visit the W129-00-00 Conveyance Improvements Project webpage at [www.hcfcd.org/W129](http://www.hcfcd.org/W129). If you have questions or comments, please call the Flood Control District's Project and Study Information Line, which is monitored daily, at 713-684-4040.

## District G Honors the Houston Tennis Association



On March 20, Council Member Pennington honored the Houston Tennis Association (“HTA”) with a Mayoral Proclamation. HTA was recently named Community Tennis Association of the Year by the United States Tennis Association. HTA was selected for this honor from among approximately 1,200 community tennis associations from all across the country.

The HTA was founded in 1952 as an organization designed to encourage and promote tennis in the Greater Houston Metropolitan area. HTA serves thousands of tennis players in Houston each year by offering programs, leagues and tournaments for players of all ages and skill levels. HTA also provides scholarships and a youth tennis program. HTA awards annual scholarships to high school graduating sen-

iors based on financial need, academics, character, and community service.

The HTA has also worked with the Houston Parks & Recreation Department to provide access to the National Junior Tennis & Learning program, which is a free youth tennis program designed to teach kids the fundamentals of tennis as well as an educational component that helps to develop life skills. For information about this youth tennis program, please visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/youthtennis.html>

In addition, HTA has developed numerous community partnerships to provide tennis opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities, including the Special Olympics, Cooperative for After-School Enrichment, Houston Wheelchair Association, and several local tennis associations.

Congratulations to the HTA!!

For more information about the HTA, contact:

Cheryl Hultquist Horvath  
 Executive Director  
 Houston Tennis Association  
 3535 Briarpark Drive, Suite 215  
 Houston, TX 77042  
 281-580-8313  
[www.houstontennis.org](http://www.houstontennis.org)



## Fire Prevention Tips from the Houston Fire Department

HFD reminds residents that cooking is the number one cause of residential fires and is preventable by following these safety tips:

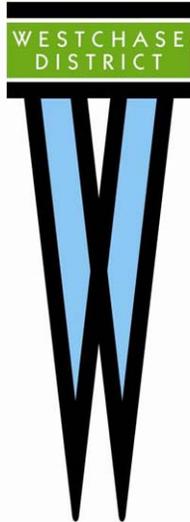
- Always, have a working smoke detector!
- Over half the people attempting to extinguish a kitchen fire are injured. Often the best advice is to get everyone out of the house and call the fire department (911) from a neighbor’s house.
- Use a moderate cooking temperature
- Don’t overfill the container
- If you must leave the kitchen, turn the burner off (Unattended cooking is the primary cause of kitchen fires. Over half of these are grease/oil fires).
- Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove. Curious children may reach up and grab the handle, pulling the hot contents down on themselves.
- Don’t position handles over another burner, it may catch fire or burn someone

who touches it.

- Wear short sleeves or tight fitting long sleeves when cooking to reduce a clothing fire hazard.
- Shield yourself from scalding steam when lifting lids from hot pans.
- Make sure pot holders are not too close to the stove. They could catch fire!
- Keep ovens, broilers, stove tops, and exhaust ducts free from grease.
- If there is a fire in the oven, turn off the oven and keep the oven door closed.
- If there is a grease fire, never try to move the pan, don’t throw water on it, and don’t put flour on it.
- If you attempt to extinguish the fire, it is best to use a class ABC multipurpose fire extinguisher. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions-stay back 6 to 8 feet and be careful not to spray the grease out of the pan. Baking soda can also smother the fire.



## Westchase Library Loop Trail Ground Breaking Ceremony



Westchase District General Manager Jim Murphy, Westchase District Board Chairman Mark Taylor, District G Council Member Oliver Pennington, District F Council Member Al Hoang, and Mark Alford, District Engineer with TxDOT, buried their shovels deep in the ceremonial dirt February 14 in celebration of the groundbreaking of Westchase District's new Library Loop Trail.

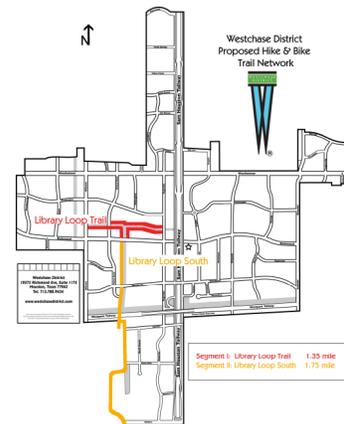
The 1.35 mile trail is being built on a Harris County Flood Control District drainage way, with support from the adjacent landowners. The trail loops east and west between the Robinson-Westchase Library (on Wilcrest) and the United State Post Office (on Rogerdale). The trail runs north of and parallel to Richmond Avenue.

The \$700,000 trail will be made of concrete and will vary in widths between 8 and 10 feet. Trail enhancements will include water fountains, benches, exercise stations, and landscaping. Design work was provided by Brown & Gay and SWA.

The trail was funded entirely by Westchase area landowners through the Westchase District and the Westchase Community Association and no city, county, state, or federal money will be used to construct the trail.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held in the parking lot immediately behind the Robinson-Westchase Library at 3223 Wilcrest, which is the western terminus of the trail. This trail will be constructed by Millis Construction & Development. Construction is expected to be complete in six months.

This is the first phase of a trail system that will eventually connect Terry Hershey Park at Buffalo Bayou to Art Storey Park and the Brays Bayou trail system. Westchase District is currently designing the next phase of the trail which will run from Richmond south past Bellaire to Art Storey Park.



## Houston Children's Museum First Free Sundays



The goal of the Houston Children's Museum (CMH) is to transform communities through innovative, child-centered learning by sparking a passion for lifelong learning.

The CMH fosters the development of Houston's significant child population, enhances parents' involvement in their children's learning, reinforces and supplements classroom instruction, reduces the effects of poverty on learning, serves a multicultural, multilingual population, and promotes workforce preparedness through the development of 21st century skills.

Named "America's No. 1 Best Children's Museum" by *Parents* magazine, winner

of Nickelodeon Parents' Picks "Best Museum in Houston 2009 & 2010", Click2Houston's Best "Best Museum 2010", the CMH is a Citysearch.com nationwide 5-star children's museum. Housed in a whimsical building designed by internationally acclaimed architect Robert Venturi, the CMH offers a multitude of exhibits bursting with action-packed fun that engage kids in the ultimate learning experience.

The CMH was founded in 1980 by a group of Houston parents who hoped to elevate early childhood development to a community-wide priority.

Since then, the CMH has grown to serve more than 850,000 people annually, focusing on bilingual (Spanish/English) learning programs for kids ages birth to 12 years and workshops in literacy, science, math, health, engineering, civic engagement, culture and social studies. The CMH operates as a 501(c)(3) under the direction of a Board of Directors.

**Target is partnering with the CMH to offer visitors free admission every first Sunday of the month. Target Free First Sundays will be on the following days:**

- Sunday May 6, 2012
- Sunday June 3, 2012
- Sunday July 1, 2012
- Sunday August 5, 2012

- Sunday September 2, 2012
- Sunday October 7, 2012
- Sunday November 4, 2012
- Sunday December 2, 2012

Free access year round to the CMH through the Open Doors Program - The *Open Doors* Program ensures that *everyone* visits the CMH. Local non-profit organizations serving low income families can obtain *free* passes to CMH by joining the *Open Doors* list at CMH. They will also receive monthly updates of all the fun valuable learning activities so they can encourage their families to come anytime to CMH.



## How is the City of Houston Funded?

The vast majority of the City's annual General Fund budget is comprised of sales taxes and property taxes. While the City collects fees (e.g., water and sewer, drainage, franchise fees for electric, telephone, gas, and cable providers and solid waste haulers, etc.), licenses and permits, fines, and other miscellaneous revenue, the only other taxes the City collects are Hotel Occupancy Taxes, Mixed Beverage Taxes and Bingo Taxes.

The following is the summary of the taxes that the City of Houston collects:

**Property Taxes:**

City of Houston's current rate is \$0.63875 per \$100 taxable value. In FY2011, the total amount paid to the City in property taxes was \$846,136,000.

**Sales Taxes:**

Total state and local tax rate is 8.25%. Composition of the total tax rate is as below:

- State collects 6.25%
- METRO (Transit) collects 1%
- City of Houston collects 1%

In FY2011, the total amount paid to the City in sales taxes was \$490,883,000.

**Hotel Occupancy Taxes:**

Total state and local tax rate is 17%. Composition of the total tax rate is as below:

- State collects 6%
- County collects 2%
- Houston-Harris County Sports Authority collects 2%
- City of Houston collects 7%

In FY2011, the total amount paid to the City in HOT taxes was \$60,731,623.

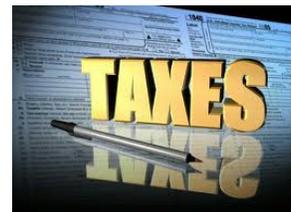
**Mixed Beverage Taxes:**

State tax rate is 14% on mixed beverage sales. The City of Houston collects 10.7143% of the total amount paid for any businesses located within the City limits. In FY2011, the total amount paid to the City in mixed beverage taxes was \$10,590,000.

**Bingo Taxes:**

State tax rate is 5% of the amount or value of all bingo prizes awarded. The City of Houston collects 2.5% of the prizes won. In FY2011, the total amount paid to the City in bingo taxes was \$206,000.

If you want to know more about the City of Houston's revenues and expenses, stay tuned to the FY2013 budget process which will be underway soon. As usual, each City Department will be giving a budget presentation to City Council. Those presentations are currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 29 through Thursday, June 7, with City Council considering the budget on Wednesday, June 13, Wednesday, June 20 and Wednesday June 27 at 9:00 a.m. each of these three days.



## SPACE Unit to be Deployed in District G



On April 27, 2010, the City of Houston was awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant from the State Energy Conservation Office in the amount of \$1,352,525 to be used for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or other energy initiatives. The City will use the grant to purchase emergency solar generators called SPACE (Solar Powered Adaptive Containers for Everyone) units to be used in an emergency to refrigerate medicine and provide the community with electricity to charge medical devices, cell phone, computers, and other devices. The units will be strategically located throughout the City, including one to be located in District G at Westside High School, 14201 Briar Forest Dr.



These SPACE units:

- are resistant to vandalism
- allow citizens, including the disabled, to be in a covered area while their medical devices are being recharged
- can be used as first aid stations or cooling stations during festivals or other highly visible events
- can assist in promoting the benefits and effectiveness of solar energy which can be used for educational and outreach activities.

Employing patent-pending design and material innovation, SPACE units are made up of four

major components:

- an up-cycled 20' x 8' shipping container housing a climate controlled work/ storage space
- a proprietary solar rack capable of producing up to 5 kW of solar power
- a self-contained battery end-cap with 5 days of battery backup
- an advanced renewable energy power management system.

By combining the strength of a shipping container with engineered green building components, these SPACE units can withstand hurricane force winds, travel securely with panels attached and wired, and be operational within one hour of deployment. All SPACE units are built here in Houston, TX.

On February 29, City Council provided the City authority to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the Houston Independent School District ("HISD") to locate three SPACE units on HISD sites. The initial term of the MOU is one year with 29 one year automatic renewal options. Under the terms of the MOU, HISD will be responsible for maintenance and any damage to the units. The City maintains the right to use the units in case of an emergency by providing 24-hour advance notice to HISD.



## City of Houston Receives a Pro Patria Award



Council Member Pennington and Council Member Burks recently accepted a prestigious award presented to the City of Houston. The City was selected by the Department of Defense’s Texas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to receive the Pro Patria Award. This the highest award this group bestows in recognition of an employer’s programs, policies, and actions that go above and beyond statutory

expectations in supporting their employees serving in the Reserve Components. “Pro Patria” is a Latin term meaning “for one’s country”.

The City (and four other Pro Patria Award winners) were selected from over 900 Texas employers nominated by their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserves.

## Houston Welcomes St. Kitts-Nevis Ambassador



Ambassador Jacinth Henry-Martin received a warm and hearty welcome by St. Kitts & Nevis nationals living in the Houston area at a recent meet and greet. Almost 100 nationals joined the executive committee of the St. Kitts Nevis Association of Houston and were treated to a wonderful evening of camaraderie, music, a cultural masquerade performance, and good food. Her Excellency spoke about her role as Ambassador to the United States, the services the Embassy offers its citizens and the importance of staying connected to St. Kitts & Nevis. Council Member Pennington had the distinct honor and privilege to present Her Excellency with a memento from the City of Houston.

Pictured: Council Member Pennington, St. Kitts & Nevis Ambassador Her Excellency Jacinth Henry-Martin, and Beverly Pennington

Photo Courtesy Melvina Chapman-Audain, the Caribbean American Heritage Foundation of Texas © 2012 (all rights reserved)



If you would like to receive periodic emails from Mayor Annise D. Parker and the City of Houston on topics of interest to you and your neighborhood, please go to <http://www.houstontx.gov> and register with CitizensNet



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Assistant Director of Constituent Services  
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## CPTED Strategies

### Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (“CPTED”)

The Houston Police Department offers Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design surveys of neighborhoods, apartment communities, businesses, homes, schools, other governmental agencies, and places of worship.

The use of CPTED concepts has shown that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.

CPTED consists of four key concepts that overlap and complement each other:

**Natural Surveillance** relates to the placement of physical features, activities, and people in a way that maximizes visibility. For example, *eyes on the street*, which basically means people watching out for each other and the removal of any obstacle that would prevent people from being able to see throughout the property.

**Natural Access Control** looks at the physical guidance of people coming to or going from a space through the strategic placement of entrances and exits, fencing, landscaping, and lighting. Access control is aimed at providing the space for the intended user by keeping out those that do not belong. A good example of access control is fencing and automatic gates in apartment complexes.

**Territorial Reinforcement** is the use of attributes such as fences, pavement treatments, art, signs and lighting that express ownership and pride on a property. The lack of ownership in apartments or other rental properties provides a challenge to instill a sense of ownership and pride.

**Maintenance** allows for the continued use of a space for its intended purpose and also serves as another expression of ownership. Appropriate and timely maintenance prevents the reduction of visibility from overgrown landscaping and obstructed or inoperable lighting. Often, once maintenance declines and deterioration sets in, crime rises.

Although the use of CPTED principles are not intended to make the property crime-proof, the *probability* of crime should be reduced if the CPTED strategies are properly applied and maintained. CPTED recommendations are seldom in conflict with more traditional forms of crime prevention such as security systems, area watch groups, and target-hardening techniques. The CPTED section also provides presentations to civic groups, PIP meetings or any other organization, needing to be informed on the effective use of CPTED principles.

*For further information or to request a CPTED survey or presentation, please contact:*

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