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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Joe Turner Elected to the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration**

Joe Turner, Director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, was elected to the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. Mr. Turner was inducted at the Academy's Annual Meeting during the National Recreation and Park Association Congress in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Academy is a group of distinguished practitioners and educators who are leaders in the field of park and recreation. They must have served in a high level of administration in a park and recreation agency or as a recognized educator in parks and recreation administration. They also must have demonstrated outstanding ability in administration, management or education in the profession; displayed broad interest with a direct service benefit to the advancement of public parks and recreation or assumed leadership with a keen desire to contribute to the advancement of the field. The Academy is limited to 125 active members.

Established in 1980, the Academy was formed to advance knowledge related to the administration of recreation and parks; encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators to enhance the practice of park and recreation administration; promote broader public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation to the public good; and conduct research, publish scholarly papers and/or sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration.

"The Class of 2014 is a great mix," said 2014 President John McGovern, also President of Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC. "We have urban to small suburban, men and women, varied ages - all with superior career experience and a dedication to improving the quality of life through the provision of high quality parks and recreation opportunities."

"I am very honored to have been elected to the Academy," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "I look forward to working with the other members of the Academy to make a difference in parks here in Houston and across the country."

*For more information on the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, visit [www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org).*

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on Joe Turner and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*