

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Tuesday, February 22, 2000

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 1:30 p. m. Tuesday, February 22, 2000, with Mayor Lee P. Brown presiding and with Council Members Bruce Tatro, Carol M. Galloway, Mark Goldberg, Rob Todd, Mark A. Ellis, Bert Keller, Gabriel Vasquez, John E. Castillo, Annise D. Parker, Gordon Quan, Orlando Sanchez, Chris Bell and Carroll G. Robinson; Mr. Paul Bibler, Senior Counsel, City Attorney's Office, Mr. Jesse Cantu, Director, Citizens Assistance Office, Ms. Debra Dillard, Citizens Assistance Office, Ms. Martha Stein, Agenda Director present. Council Member Jew Don Boney, Jr. absent due to being ill.

At 2:07 p.m. Mayor Brown called to order the meeting of the City Council, and Council Member Ellis invited Brother Casey Ferlitta, S.J., Strake Jesuit College Preparatory to offer the prayer, and Council Member Ellis led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent.

Mayor Brown recognized Council Member Castillo for a presentation. Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent.

Council Member Castillo stated that he wanted to call on the leadership of the Young Film Maker Festival 2000 with Women in Film, that the presentation was going to be made on behalf of the Young Film Maker Festival 2000 and invited Ms. Gudrun Klein, President of Women in Film and Television Houston Chapter to the podium. Council Members Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent.

Ms. Klein stated that she wanted to introduce a wonderful project where they offered young people from kindergarten age to high school to show their art in film making and introduced Ms. Murice Alexander an advisory board member of the festival who stated that as a small business owner she understood the importance of community involvement and understood the role children played in the development of the future communities, that as an individual she was delighted to be a part of the project and as a business owner she challenged other business owners and good citizens to join changing a child's life by becoming involved in the Young Film Maker Festival of Houston, that they could teach a child self expression and build self esteem through the art of film, that they needed their financial support and were still soliciting funds and looking for sponsorship and needed their help to reach their budget goals, that for additional information regarding sponsorships they could call the hot line at 713-788-8075 and invited Council to see first hand how the project had impacted the young community by showing a video presentation and Ms. Klein introduced the youngest winner of the festival last year Ms. Alla Klussmann. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent.

At 2:18 p.m. Mayor Brown requested the City Secretary to call the roll. Council Member Boney absent due to being ill. Council Members Parker, Bell and Robinson absent.

Council Members Castillo and Quan moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. Council Member Boney absent due to being ill. Council Members Parker, Bell and Robinson absent.

Mayor Brown requested the City Secretary to call the list of speakers.

Ms. Alice Rekeweg, 4203 Broadleaf, Kingwood, Texas 77345 (281-360-7457) appeared and stated that again she stood before the Council to beg for a solution to the dispatch problem facing the Fire and Police Departments of Houston, that it had been a problem in Houston but the annexation of Kingwood had made the problem bigger, that the current dispatch system did not have a landmark cross reference directory and could only use street addresses and cross streets, that the backup to the computerized dispatch system was the map book and unfortunately the map book was inaccurate, that it showed road right-of-ways regardless if the street actually existed, that this caused confusion for the dispatcher in the Kingwood incident, that the dispatcher sent the ambulance to Riverwood Park on Hamblin Road, that thankfully the firefighters involved questioned the address and rode to Riverwood Park, that if a medical emergency occurred at a landmark such as Enron Field how could the Fire Department respond, that she knew the answer, that the Fire Department would station medical units at those facilities when there was an event, that they had events all the time, their children played soccer and other sports in Houston parks, that their children swam at pools located in their neighborhoods, that wasn't the safety and welfare of their children as important as the safety and welfare of professional sporting event participants, that they were to her and she believed they were also to them, that many of the problems had been blamed on cellular phones which did not display the location and knew that this was a problem but the bigger problem lay with computer system that could not recognize local landmarks, that the technology existed to build such a system, that it could be used in conjunction with the current system to get the address and cross streets necessary to dispatch the proper equipment, that it was up to Council to allocate the resources required to develop a simple database which could be used as a backup to the dispatch system when the address and cross street were not available, and she hoped that the Council would act swiftly on the issue to protect the residents of Houston. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent.

Mr. Bill Wiener, 2306 Willow Point Dr., Kingwood, Texas 77345 (281-358-4142) appeared and stated that he would pass his time to allow his neighbors to continue on with their concerns to Council, that they all had the same feelings and he was present to support what they said. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent.

Mr. Anthony Geldens, 4545 Kingwood Dr., Kingwood, Texas 77345 (281-360-7598) appeared and stated that he was present to express his outrage about the latest incident in which a man died needlessly in River Grove Park in Kingwood due to another mix-up by Houston's dispatch resulting in a delay of 20 to 30 minutes, that the problem was not the use of a cell phone, since the original call went to Harris County neutral where it was supposed to go to, that the dispatcher confused the matter by insisting to have a cross road and/or address, that parks did not have an address but the caller gave dispatch the correct information about the location of the incident, that the call was transferred from one dispatcher to another, over and over again all of them asking the same questions, wasting valuable time, that some of the dispatchers were still asking the name of the park after the caller had identified the name of the park several times, so much for professionalism, that it had been three years since they were annexed, so there had been plenty of time for dispatch to familiarize itself with the annexed area, that Mr. Dickson, the Community Liaison was erroneously led to believe that all the Kingwood Parks were in the system and there would be no need for cross roads and address information, that in their Public Safety Committee meeting however, Mr. Tyra tried to make Mr. Dickson look like a fool and he personally resented that, that Mr. Dickson was

trying to make the best out of a difficult situation and was not to be used as a scapegoat, that the mix-ups by Houston's dispatch caused unnecessary delays and confusion was rather the rule not the exception, that the problem was not just in Kingwood, but all over the City, that on Friday, February 18, 2000 at 4:15 p.m. he and his wife were on their way to the Kroger store on Lake Houston Parkway when a fire engine came roaring out of the fire station next door to the Kroger store heading north, then a few minutes later it came back heading south, that was not at all unusual sight there, that the fire chief and the assistant fire chief from the very beginning on had stated that HFD/EMS were the finest in the nation, they offered them by making statements like "Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department and KAEMSA, could not even compare to HFD/EMS", that KVFD and KAEMSA however had consistently much shorter response times and they knew where they were going, that HFD/EMS were quite often seen going in all directions except the right one, that HFD/EMS had deliberately stonewalled their requests for response times, that Assistant Fire Chief Slagle told him personally at one time that he and the Public Safety Committee members were only a bunch of whiners who did not know what they were talking about, that HFD/EMS did not seem to be able to address all the problems they had due to ineffectiveness of the present leadership, that as examples spending roughly half a million dollars to defend the indefensible in the courts regarding the use of faulty equipment (Acres Homes, 3 people dead), that another example the debacle of the death of Police Officer Blando, where Mr. Tyra insisted on keeping Captain Clark on dispatch duty, despite the fact that he new about Mr. Clark's medical impairments, that in the end Captain Clark was made the scapegoat for not following policy and was more severely punished than Mr. Tyra, who in fact was the one violating policy by keeping Captain Clark on dispatch duty, that Mr. Britt in a letter dated April 1997 advised all union members to oppose SB 313 (M. Galloway), stating that it would result in a loss of 78 promotions and 94 new jobs, that statement was a pretty good indication of the past and present leadership's frame of mind, that the ultimate responsibility to prevent those mix-ups however lay with Mayor Brown, that the time had come for City Council and Mayor Brown to act by making the funds available to make the antiquated Houston dispatch system compatible with the twenty-first century technology, that the technology was available, but not in Houston apparently, that from what he understood the City of Dallas had for seven years a system in place that worked well and without major complications; that they please act before more people were going to die needlessly, that a human life was more valuable than wasting time and money pursuing lawsuits that could not be won and building e.g. a controversial Convention Hotel and all kinds of sports facilities, that if they still had all the funds available that had been wasted so far, they could have had a well functioning system in place that could really make HFD/EMS a model for other cities. Council Member Robinson absent.

Mr. James Harding, 5015 Sandy Cedar, Kingwood, Texas 77345 (281-360-7334) appeared and stated that the citizens of Houston had the right to have respect and confidence in their fire service, that the valor of the Houston Firefighter was not in question, that the Houston Fire Department Dispatch System had proven itself to be a disaster, using antiquated technology, questionable staffing and insensitive processors, and he respectfully requested that Mayor Brown immediately intervene and generate the political will to restore the respect and confidence of the entire community in the EMS Dispatch, that the facts supported that EMS Dispatch was poorly led and incompetently managed and the reason was Chief Lester Tyra, that he was part of the problem and incapable of providing the leadership necessary to offer solutions, that Chief Tyra was the whiner not a leader, that his executive and managerial behaviors were certainly suspect,

that he would give some examples as they related to his Kingwood persona, that last October Chief Tyra ordered one of his chiefs to no longer attend the monthly public safety meeting, that Chief Tyra mandated that all Houston fire issues would be screened and relayed through the Mayor's representative, that Kingwood lost a vital player from a critical forum, and he wanted to ask Chief Tyra why, that it could not be the forum, that HPD worked openly, candidly and well with the community, that HPD's Captain Cutler and Lt. Hadaway's actions and reactions were more consistent with a stable and well respected leader, that they did not take their ball and go home in a pout, that Chief Tyra's ego could not tolerate outside scrutiny, that in January Chief Tyra reversed himself and came to the public safety meeting and wanted to work together, that the committee was very responsive and elected new officers and were committed to looking forward and 30 days later another man was dead and HPD's dispatch was fingered, now which Chief Tyra would show up, likeable Lester or was it that my way or the highway guy, that Chief Tyra did not come prepared to communicate a plan to solve the fundamental dispatch problems, that he came with a file folder full of excuses, that in addition because intimidation, manipulation and deception were his stock and trade he ordered the attendance of an entire contingent of on shift uniform firemen to attend the meeting, that they parked a truck in front of the meeting hall, why were they there, what could they be there for other than to be used as props to bolster his shabby credibility, that also he brought an entourage, two other chiefs, assorted captains, and several firefighters in civilian clothes who lined the back of the hall standing together arms crossed, why were they there, to intimidate the attendees and speakers or just more props, that Council as an honorable body needed to get the answers as to why those tactics were used at a meeting whose primary purpose was to communicate, that further in the mist of a Chief Tyra speech the assembled crowd groaned as the pontification of an obvious half truth, that Chief Tyra lost it and went into a tirade about his personal honor, that he postured thereby destroyed any further fact finding, that let it be said that he got personal and when he got personal went off topic, that Chief Tyra had spent too much of his career profiting from confrontation, that was all he knew, that his department was well behind the available technology curve for dispatch, that internally dispatch was regarded as an overpaid collection of F troopers, and he urged that they immediately remove Chief Tyra and put someone into the top spot who could communicate well with public, who understood and could master technology and could restore the communities confidence in HFD EMS Dispatch. Council Members Galloway, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Ms. Rita Daniels, 5818 Juniper Knoll Ln., Kingwood, Texas 77345 (281-241-4242) appeared and stated that she was speaking for the second time in 23 months regarding emergency response time from the City of Houston, that her efforts to bring problems to light included a meeting with Mayor Lanier in October 1997 at which time she highlighted dispatch delays when calling in emergencies via cell phones, that in the spring of 1998 she met privately with Mayor Brown's Executive Assistant Al Haines and had spoken with numerous Council Members or their aides, that still another person had died waiting for an ambulance and this time in River Grove Park, that she listened to the HFD dispatch tape of the Petigo incident, that the dispatcher was looking through a key map for the park location, why was he doing that when he should have been using the common name file to locate the park, that it was a tool on the CAD System that should have pulled up the parks location as it had been loaded on the file in October, that they had a handout outlining information obtained from Assistant Chief Roland Gamez regarding the capabilities of the Dallas Fire Department, that they could see that Dallas had an AVL equipment tracking system in place for seven years, that Dallas Communication Division

recently budgeted \$20 million dollars toward cell phone tracking which they say would be available in the next six to twelve months, that they were being very proactive in order to serve the citizens of Dallas, that Dallas's recently retired Fire Chief had been in the position for 23 years and his philosophy was that if they wanted a great department to let him do it his way, that Houston had at least 6 fire chiefs over the past 22 years, one from Seattle who stayed only a short time, that the Dallas Fire Department often did comparison studies with other cities and would be happy to show Houston their operation and she urged all Council Members to visit the Dallas Fire Department, that Council Member Sanchez stated in the Kingwood Observer that he was beginning to regret his vote on the annexation, that the statement reminded her of a line from a tragic London musical, Blood Brothers, that the thing was done now there was no going back for anyone, that it was too late now for feeling torn, that let it be a message for new Council Members to not allow the establishment to spoon feed them the facts as they saw them, to use logic, ask questions and do their own research of the issues, that this was what she had done in the past three years and would like to pass on some urgent action items for the City to consider in order to properly protect it's citizens, to immediately work with Greater Harris County 911 Emergency Network as well as all other 911's in Houston and surrounding areas to improve accuracy of dispatch and since it was the largest 911 in Texas she would expect current dispatch technology to be state of the art, and immediately partner for automatic assistance agreements with private ambulances and communities around Houston, that the Houston Professional Firefighters Association Agreement with Houston, referenced in her handout, should not be allowed to inhibit that activity, that other suggestions were listed in her handout, that before she closed she wanted to commend the firefighters on Medic 101 who when finally dispatched ignored their dispatch directions to River Grove Park on Hamlin Road and proceeded down Woodlands Hills Drive where they knew the park was located, that the response would have been further delayed had these firefighters had not empowered themselves to do what they knew to be correct, that they should not have been put in that position, that she was asking Mayor Brown and Council Members to take ownership of the dispatch problem in Houston. Council Members Galloway, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Mayor Brown asked the City Secretary to advise the audience about demonstrations in Council Chambers, and the City Secretary stated that under the rules of Council it was prohibited for any kind of demonstrations, clapping, boo's or anything of that nature, that Council would appreciate if they would observe those rules, that kind of interruption just delayed hearing from all the speakers. Council Members Galloway, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Council Member Parker asked if Ms. Daniels had put together the handout and Ms. Daniels stated yes and apologized for not putting her name on it, and Council Member Parker stated that it was very interesting and would like to call her about it, and Ms. Daniels stated she asked Assistant Chief Gamez if he would mind anyone calling him and he stated he would be delighted to talk to them. Council Members Galloway, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Ms. Tracey Carlton, 2115 Lawson Creek, Kingwood, Texas 77339 (281-380-5411) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Galloway, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Ms. Elizabeth Gruhn, 2203 Willow Point, Kingwood, Texas 77339 (281-358-2791) appeared and stated that she was on the soccer field at River Grove the day that Terry died, that she was with him and holding him and could not tell them how appalled she was that this happened and how around the field she could hear people on cell phones calling, that she overheard what they said, that there was no ambiguity as to the location, that it had been represented that Debbie Ward said that she was not sure that it was Harris or Montgomery County, that she had heard the tapes five times and she said it and it was very clear, that she also knew that in those tapes the first call was not recorded or had not been found, that she was standing next to the son when he made that call, that she proceeded to Terry at that time and was with him a good half hour, that she understood from what she had read that 911 said they had a 10 to 15 minute response time and she was appalled at that representation, that how could she believe what she was told, that if she had not been there she would have believed that those were accurate statements and they were not, that she was ashamed, that she had heard her neighbors talk about Dallas, that they were a larger city than Dallas and why were they comparing Houston to a smaller city, that they were growing and needed an emphasis and solution and needed it now, that she stood in support with her Kingwood neighbors and hoped that it would be taken seriously and addressed and something could be done with the 911 neutral question that had been coming up time and time again, that she could not tell them how profound an experience it had been to be with Terry, that he was a soccer coach and a good man, that not enough had been said about him or the individuals that were serving their communities when they died, and had it been their loved one who had been alone somewhere where there was no address they would be sorry. Council Members Galloway and Vasquez absent.

Council Member Robinson apologized for running late and stated that he had an opportunity to visit with Mr. Hollingsworth of Mayor Brown's office and they scheduled for the March meeting of the Transportation and Technology Infrastructure Committee, a comprehensive briefing on the 911 issue and thought that everyone on the Council table and in the audience knew that there was ongoing litigation between Harris County 911 and Houston Cellular about the deployment of cell phone location technology and in fact the Federal Communication Commission had authorized two different types of technology to be used for specific location of cell phones but because of the litigation they had not made their way down that road and one of the purposes for the committee was to try to get a comprehensive briefing and try to help instigate the process along so they would have that technology out there, that there was nothing that any of them could say when they talked about someone being lost, but they noticed that it was a very important and significant issue and at least from the committee and Council level and the administration level they wanted to bring the parties that had the jurisdiction before them and try to encourage them to speed up implementation in use of that technology and thanked everyone who had been present and shared with Council, and hoped that between the two of them, Council and the folks in the community, they could make it clear, that they might want to write to the FCC or some other folks, but to try to encourage as many people as they could who had greater jurisdiction to get the technology deployed so they could avoid those kind of situations in the future. Council Members Galloway and Vasquez absent.

Mr. Richard Hawley, 2103 Spruce Rd., Kingwood, Texas 77339 (281-359-4342) appeared and stated that he was a resident of Kingwood, that he was present to speak about the slow response times of the City of Houston Fire and EMS Service, that during



the past three plus years since the City of Houston annexed Kingwood several of their neighbors had met with untimely deaths due to the slow response time of the City of Houston Fire and EMS Services, that the citizens of Houston had been told that the slow response times were due to the telephone dispatch service of the 911 contractor's bungling of the calls that came in from citizens in distress, that the City of Houston Mayor had held several prestigious leadership positions in the municipal and federal government around the United States, that the City of Houston Fire Chief had for many years worked his way up the ladder of the Firefighter Organization to obtain the position of Fire Chief, that they were told that the City of Houston Firefighters and EMS personnel were the best in the Country; why did those outstanding people allow a second rate telephone dispatching contractor to continually degrade the expertise and professionalism that was signified by their positions, was it because not one of those entities had the power to handle their assignment creditably and demand and obtain excellence from a second rate contractor, why was the Finance and Administration Department responsible for the 911 contractor instead of the Fire Chief or the Public Safety Department, why did the City Council allow those injustices to continue and did anyone in the great City of Houston municipal government have the power to make a change for the better. Council Members Galloway and Vasquez absent.

Ms. Susan Thobe, 3614 Valley Haven, Kingwood, Texas 77339 (281-358-8306) appeared and stated that she was present to publicly express her condolences to the family and friends of five people who had died in Kingwood due to what they believed was long response times from the moment their 911 calls were received by the Houston Fire Department dispatch center until emergency equipment arrived on the scene, that during it's 23 years of operation the Kingwood area emergency medical service association responded on average within four minutes from the time a 911 call was received until an ambulance arrived on the scene, that since Kingwood was annexed by Houston in December 1996 emergency response times had gone as high as thirty minutes largely due to dispatching errors, that Mayor Brown had told her on March 10, 1998 at a City Council Meeting public session that Houston was obligated to provide Kingwood with emergency services equal or better than what the community enjoyed prior to annexation yet people continued to die in Kingwood, that Mayor Brown was also made aware that dispatching errors played a large role in the death of HPD Officer Blando who died in Houston on May 19, 1999 while waiting 19 minutes for emergency assistance, that shortly thereafter he engaged medical priorities consultants to conduct an investigation of HFD Dispatch Center and MPC's findings which were received in an August 1999 report revealed that the center had serious operational flaws yet people continued to die in Houston, that Mayor Brown had the responsibility to improve the emergency response times not only in Kingwood but also citywide, that he also had the resources to help the men and women of HFD do their jobs better and safer, that they already lost two people lets not loose anymore HFD people, that how many more people had to die in Houston and Kingwood and all the areas that HFD took care of before he took action, that in closing she requested a moment of silence to remember Officer Blando and also the people that had died in Kingwood since they were annexed waiting for HFD emergency assistance and called their names. Council Member Galloway absent.

Mr. Tony Gelat, 2035 Hickory Creek, Kingwood, Texas 77339 (281-358-5164) appeared and stated that there was a little point that he would like to suggest, that the solution to the 911 system was going to take sometime, however there was a short term

solution that could be done in a matter of weeks, that what needed to be done was to create a database showing important buildings, swimming pools, fields, baseball fields and arenas so that if a message came into 911 saying that it was the Forest Grove or soccer fields in Houston there should be a database and all the operator would have to do was to enter River Grove Park Kingwood and immediately it would pop up Kingwood Fire Station 101, that it was as simple as that and would take 15 seconds to enter the name of the location and to get a response on where to send the message, that was something that could be done in a matter of weeks at low cost, that the ultimate solution to the problem was to have everything on a comprehensive database including triangulation of mobile phones, that it would take some time and cost some money but it must be done, the second point that he wished to raise was that he had a memo from the Mayor to Council Member Sanchez that said that recently he had inquired of his office to look into the feasibility of creating a blue ribbon committee of citizens to provide oversight to the Fire Department, that after reviewing the issue with Chief Tyra and Dr. Persee, the HFD Medical Director, they had demonstrated to him that there was not additional oversight necessary, et cetera, and Mr. Gelat was shocked by that statement in view of what had happened in the past many years, that he was shocked that they did not feel that the blue ribbon committee was necessary, and urged everybody to create such a committee as soon as possible, that this was not a joke people's lives were involved, that it was not simply a matter of saying there was not a problem, it was not going to go away it was going to get worse as Houston got bigger and bigger.

Council Member Todd moved to suspend the rules to hear Mr. Jim Waters and Mr. Larry Lane out of order, and was seconded by Council Member Parker. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Boney absent due to being ill. MOTION 2000-0252 ADOPTED.

Mr. Jim Waters, 2039 Pine River Dr., Kingwood, Texas 77345 (281-351-3174) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called. Council Member Castillo absent.

Mr. Larry Lane, P.O. Box 1593, Kingwood, Texas 77347 (77347) appeared and stated that they had heard powerful and accurate reports of failures in their emergency services, that the Lanier Administration imposed the substandard system on the residents of Kingwood in particular as was shown on the Blando incident on their entire city, that the current administration by its inaction perpetuates it, that some of them may not understand the nature of their problem, that some at the table might be more concerned with arenas and games rather than with their lives, that if they doubted the gravity of the situation or resisted institution of substantive effective change they would sport the blood of the next victim on the hands of their indifference, that it was time to take decisions on emergency assets, procedures and protocols away from those who had proven incapable of fixing obvious problems, that self-aggrandizing employee unions must have no role in setting service norms, that full accountability demanded full liability for actions performed or not performed in the delivery of emergency service, that they knew what had to be done and their choices were simple, they may lead, follow or get out of their way, that he had one disappointment, he had presented to Mr. Bibler a request for information on February 1, 2000 and to date had not received a response. Council Member Castillo absent.



Council Member Todd moved to suspend the rules to hear Chief Lester Tyra, and was seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Boney absent due to being ill. Council Member Castillo absent. MOTION 2000-0253 ADOPTED.

Mayor Brown stated that Chief Tyra had heard the testimony that had been presented and asked that he give his response and reactions to the situation that had been brought to the Council's attention.

Chief Tyra stated that with the cooperation with the 911 system they had created a chart that explained the duration of elapsed time and the Houston Fire Department involvement in the particular incident at River Grove Park, that it did a chronology of the incident along with the time lines, that when Houston got the call into their center 2 minutes and 36 seconds had completed before they dispatched, that it was 6 minutes and 35 seconds from the beginning of the incident and that was attributed to the confusion with the cell phone, that they had the tape and had listened to it, that the command staff had reviewed it numerous times, that the dispatcher eventually took it upon himself to look up River Grove Park in the key map and was able to determine that the closest cross street would be Woodland Hills and Hamlin Road, even though Hamlin Road did not exist it was still on the key map and he dispatched to that area, that the crew at 101 was able to determine from that particular dispatch that River Grove Park traveling down Woodlands Hill Drive would get them access to the park, that they asked for clarification as to the soccer field, north or south fields and that was given to them in route, that while there was a great deal of what was perceived to be a long time between the time that Houston did actually dispatch there was a lot of processing time, that those were the true and accurate times from the Houston Fire Department's dispatch tapes that were permanent records within their files.

Mayor Brown asked what seemed to have accounted for the extended delay, and Chief Tyra stated that again the processing time of the initial call there was some confusion in regards to the cell phone, that 911 could give a further explanation of the process of dealing with a cell phone versus a wire system and thought that would be a great explanation that Council should hear at this time to give that explanation and show what they were faced with when they received those types of calls, that it was not an excuse it was exactly what they had to operate with the technology they had to operate with to date, that as the consolidation came on board and new equipment and software and hardware was put in place those things could be corrected, that the common name file was not maintained in their current system and their primary source of dispatch was prime street and cross street with an accurate address which was the best system to get accurate dispatch equipment to an emergency scene, that there were numerous common sites in the city that had the same name, for example over in Candle Light Park there was an apartment complex called Kingwood Grove and there was also one of those in Kingwood itself, so using common names for structures and parks and things like that could also lead to delays, that it had to be a very accurate system, that it was not something that they would not want to look at but it had to be maintained and very refined, for example common name Memorial Park, would it be the soccer field, the swimming pool, the golf course, the jogging trail, the softball fields, where would it be, that those were the kinds of things they had to address when they used common named technology, so prime street with cross was the preferred method of dispatch that they

would like to use and continue to use, and refine it as a backup if necessary. Council Member Castillo absent.

Mayor Brown asked if the Fire Department had recognized some of the needs to improve its dispatch system and now the City was in the process with Council's help to combine 911, police and fire dispatch, and Chief Tyra stated that yes, they had currently, with the cooperation of the Mayor and Council, identified funding for the software and hardware some 2.5 million dollars in both police and fire equipment budgets to purchase that, that the building committee that was headed by the Don Hollingsworth group, public safety working with police and fire and 911 had been able to narrow it down with how they were going to proceed with a building and that recommendation would be forthcoming in the next few weeks to make the final recommendation to the Mayor and Council and would begin having a consolidated building and the new equipment would be purchased and placed in there and should expedite the whole system that they had in place now, and Mayor Brown asked Chief Tyra to explain to the Council and audience how the consolidated 911, police and fire dispatch would be a better system, and Chief Tyra stated that right now they received from 911 neutral and if it was a fire or medical emergency it was referred to 333 Preston, if it was a police emergency it was referred to their dispatch center on Riesner Street, that what happened was that two call takers processed the call under the current system and when they did a consolidation of both police and fire the call takers would have a single access of all 911 calls, so then the call taker would then direct it immediately without having to hand it off to the second call taker, either the police or fire shop, so it would take one level of transferring a call out of the system and expedite all dispatch calls, and Mayor Brown stated that they heard mention of the Officer Blando killing, did 911 or the technology in the fire dispatch have a role to play in that death, and Chief Tyra stated no, that the cause, according to Dr. Maddox and the people who worked on Officer Blando, no matter if a medical personnel would have been standing at the scene they could not have saved Officer Blando's life, that they did have a procedural problem by two of their dispatchers that failed to follow written policy in regards to confirming the address and that was the delay in responding to the Blando incident, and Mayor Brown asked if Chief Tyra had asked Council for anything to improve the current fire dispatch and if so had the Council granted that request to him, and Chief Tyra stated that yes, they were granted the 2.5 million dollars both police and fire last year and the study that was done by medical priorities they asked for those and had been able to implement those at no cost other than the cost for the study and were bringing back the software, that medical priorities was recommending that they do a EMT protocol software and they were going to purchase that and should be online in the near future which would reduce some of the questioning that they had to do under Dr. Persee's medical license to dispatch, but the protocol would be reduced and expedited once that new software was on, that Council and the Mayor had been very cooperative in the step by step approach to improving the dispatch center, both police and fire and the EMS system, that it was something that just could not take place overnight, they wish they could just dump money into this and do that but he thought they had a very good plan in place, that patience was needed to make this thing work and with the continued cooperation of the Mayor and Council they would get there, and Mayor Brown asked if the fire station in Kingwood adequately staffed, and Chief Tyra stated yes, that there was staffing and they were fixing to put the fourth fire station on line within 30 days and would be moving an additional ladder truck into the Kingwood area at the time when the new station would open. Council Member Castillo absent.

Council Member Todd stated that the 911 and fire and EMS response time was not a Kingwood issue, it was a Houston and Harris County issue, and was an issue for everyone that lived in the area, that they all had a stake in it, that he had been hearing since he got in Council that they had plans to address a lot of the short comings and that Chief Tyra mentioned that they were planning on building a common dispatch center and would that building solve those problems, and Chief Tyra stated that the building would be the first step of the consolidation and that would be one of the personnel issues that they had been bring forward to get the civilian call takers and enlarging and updating the equipment and software, that they started about 14 months ago reducing the number of classified people so they could use that money to hire civilian call takers once the consolidation was complete so they could have trained professional call takers, both police and fire side and 911 side consolidated, and Council Member Todd asked how long it would take to open up a building like that and Chief Tyra stated about 18 months from the time they made their final choice and Council Member Todd asked if they were 18 months away from taking the first step toward solving the problems and Chief Tyra stated yes, and Council Member Todd stated that the building itself would not address the cellular telephone locator technology and Chief Tyra stated absolutely not, that it was a separate issue that could be addressed separately from the building issue, that the computer software they were installing would have common name capability and hopefully when they did the consolidation they would have the personnel to maintain it, that they could not do it now because they did not have the resources to do it, that 911 would be the obvious place to do it, that they could not put in the common name technology now because they did not have the resources to maintain such a file, that they had to have the money to create the file and the personnel to continuously maintain the file, that he would have to look up the cost for such a program, that the number of employees needed was a 911 issue more than a fire issue, that 911 had to maintain the file, that he had not asked 911 if they could put the system in now instead of 18 months to get the system going and Council Member Todd asked him to ask that question before they waited 18 months for that type of technology, and urged Chief Tyra to work with the Legal Department to file something with the courts to urge them to get a speedy resolution of that and understood that there were some thorny issue involved, but the judge was going to have to deal with the issues at some point.

Council Member Parker stated she agreed with Council Member Todd on the issue and maybe it should not be Chief Tyra on the hot seat but Mr. Hollingsworth, but she seemed to recall a year ago when they went through the budget process that they said as a Council that they would give them whatever it took, that if they had to cut the budget someplace else they would give them whatever it took, that she really hated to hear that they did not have the resources.

Council Member Sanchez stated he had told Mayor Brown that the number one issue that a Mayor and at least this government ought to take care of was public safety, that public safety should command the bulk of the resources and the bulk of attention from the City, that he had a visit in his office several months ago with Mr. Hollingsworth and had asked at that time for a time line for the construction of the new dispatch center and was glad to find out that it was now 18 months and that was a very expedited schedule, that he waited with tremendous anticipation for the new dispatch system in 18 months, that he had made suggestions, that he made a suggestion and talked to Dr. Red Duke who said he would chair a blue ribbon committee and Mayor Brown sent him back a

memo on January 10th and said it was not needed, that he did not know what else they could do. Council Member Parker absent.

Upon questions by Council Members Keller and Bell, Mr. Hollingsworth stated that the old HL&P Command Center was a viable candidate but that it would take less time to build a new building than to rehab that old building, that not having a facility was a major impediment, but they were very close to identifying it, that there was an awful lot of research and first they had to locate a building and HL&P was one of those options but they felt that the City was not best served just looking at one option, that they should look at more than just HL&P and they did, they expanded that, and by expanding that they learned that built to suit may be better for the City than to rehab the HL&P building, that they would base a deadline on when they identified a building, but consultants had told them they could erect a building with 18 months ready to be occupied with full system integration, that the deadline to identify the building would be within a couple of weeks, that they would know exactly what property they would want to pursue. Council Member Parker absent.

Council Member Quan stated he was moved by the testimonies given at Council and also by the citizens at Kingwood and looking at the presentation by Ms. Thobe it was real simple, that she stated when the Kingwood Emergency Medical Association was in operation they average four minutes to get an ambulance to a scene, and when they had so many episodes where they were only a minute away from a fire station but took 20 to 30 minutes and he looked at the fact that it was going to be 18 months before they got the center in operation and asked if they had any solution on an interim basis to address those issues, was there any solution, and Chief Tyra stated that one of the solutions was the common name but they still had a wireless problem that had to be resolved also, that the day to day operation of the Houston Fire Department continued to provide an excellent level of fire and EMS service citywide and there were those incidents when things did not go right but that was just part of the job, that they were 100 per cent emergency response department and did not have the luxury of not responding, that they did an excellent job when compared to other major departments, that they were taking all of the recommendations of the medical priorities study that was done last summer and they had implemented those and were currently upgrading their 911 intake call equipment in their old building even though they were going to move out of there eventually, they were doing everything possible to make it happen with the system they currently had in place. Council Member Parker absent.

Council Member Vasquez thanked the residents of Kingwood for coming down this week as opposed to last week, that he did not have the history of the issue and obviously there were some Council Members that were very upset about the funding part of it and his comments were to move forward and figure out a way to accelerate the process and would be supportive of that if he came forward with any type of proposal. Council Member Parker absent.

Mayor Brown stated that part of the equation was the 911 system and there were representatives of 911 present and after Chief Tyra was finished they might have a motion to bring 911 up. Council Member Parker absent.

Council Member Robinson moved to suspend the rules to hear a representative from 911, and was seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none.

Council Member Boney absent due to being ill. Council Member Parker absent.  
MOTION 2000-0254 ADOPTED.

Mr. John Melcher, Deputy Director and Chief Technical Officer of the Greater Harris County 911 Emergency Network, appeared and stated that their network was an emergency communications district formed by the State Legislature and they implement and administer equipment for 911 calls for service throughout the Houston and Metropolitan area, all of Harris County, and through interlocal agreements to Ft. Bend County, that wireless was an extremely complex issue and as some Council Members would recall from their earlier work on the tower ordinance, wireless was a very frustrating issue, that they shared the frustration of the members of Kingwood and everybody else in the Country that was impacted by the lack of wireless location technology where people were dying every week in the Country because of it, that wireless calls to 911 took three to four times longer to process on average than a wireline 911 call, that when they cut the network in January 1996 they experienced less than 1% of their call volume from wireless telephones and they now had experienced in some jurisdictions in excess of 50% of 911 call volume from wireless telephones and compared to the fact that it took three to four times longer to process the call they could see the impact, so public safety shared their frustration, that the integration of the 911 system into the police and fire CAD systems shaved an average of 32 seconds off of every response that was dispatched. Mr. Melcher continued to explain, with slides, how 911 routed calls on a wireline side, what an average call taker saw, their new mapped alley system where they were actually using one of the most accurate maps in the area provided by the Houston Fire Department and stated that was how the wireline system worked and worked with an accuracy and efficiency of 99.9%, that wireless calls were altogether different, to route a wireless call they picked the same arbitrary sight and plotted a cell tower, that the map showed a two and a half mile range, that cell sites covered anywhere from half a mile to twenty miles and beyond depending on the individual cell tower, that many cell towers especially in border and fringe areas covered multiple jurisdictions and in that case a cell tower in that section of town would cover Montgomery County, parts of Harris County, parts of the City of Houston, Atascosita and multiple jurisdictions, that in the case of the Petigo incident the call was first delivered to the Harris County neutral 911 center operated by the sheriff's department at that point when they said they needed an ambulance the call taker had at her behest 23 different ambulance companies so they had to determine where the call was being placed from so that the call taker would know which ambulance company to dispatch and displayed a slide that showed two screens in front of the call takers, that the one on the left showed the information about the caller and the one on the right showed the map, that the one on the left showed the phone number but that was not the call back number to the wireless phone and as they knew they did have a problem sometimes keeping wireless calls up because they did drop and they often times had to call them back, but they had to illicit that information from the caller, that they showed an address as Two Mobile Way, which they could not find in the key map because there was no Two Mobile Way, that was just a routing code that they used to get it to a primary answering point, that they did not know where they were or how to call them back unless they got that information from the caller, that they did show an agencies list and other selective transfer buttons where they could move that call around, and his next slide showed how difficult that could be, that they clicked on the agencies button and all of the surrounding agencies did pop up in alphabetical order but as they saw on the slide Dallas was on the Houston City 911 answering center's agencies list, that Dallas was there for the same reason that Corpus Christi and San Antonio and many other areas were

because they often got 911 calls from people who were calling from Dallas, Corpus Christi and San Antonio, that radio waves had no respect for political jurisdiction, and they had them often enough that they added those cities into their calling database and would transfer that call, long distance to Dallas to make sure that the caller would get some help, but that was the frustration that the call takers went through, that if they asked a 911 dispatcher, and they had over 1,000 within their jurisdiction in Harris and Ft. Bend Counties, what their greatest frustration was in taking 911 calls they would tell them unanimously wireless telephones, that what were they doing about it, the next slide showed that the FCC did pass a resolution and ordered that wireless and 911 be repaired, that when they had a 99.9% efficacy rate on wireline and they had a very poor efficacy rate on wireless their agency combined with other agencies throughout the Country petitioned the FCC for some action and the results were Docket 94-102 and a rule was passed in 1996 that gave two phases to wireless 911 implementation, that Phase One dictated that they get the cell tower that sent them the call and they get the call back number of the calling party so they would have the phone number of the mobile if available and which tower sent it, and at least with that they could plot the neighborhood or the area where it came from, that they had contracts in place with all but two carriers and they expected to have those completed and Phase One implemented by the third quarter of the year for all carriers in the City of Houston, that Phase Two would take effect no later than October 2001, that they had contracts in place with two carriers in Houston for Phase Two technology trials. Council Members Tatro, Ellis and Keller absent.

Mayor Brown asked that under the enhanced 911 the location was where the phone came up the screen and Mr. Melcher stated absolutely in a wireline situation and not the case with the cellular phone, and Mayor Brown asked if the technology was there to make it happen and Mr. Melcher stated that they actually had location technology equipment on some 70 plus cell sites on a carrier in southwest Houston waiting to be turned on, that there was a piece of litigation in place, that they did have a contract with one of the major carriers in Houston and the technology was implemented and four days before the turn on date they received a phone call from the carrier saying they did not want to turn it on, subsequent meetings with them trying to figure out exactly what their issues were and how they could resolved those were unsuccessful and their refusal led to their agency filing a law suit against them to stick to their contract, that it was filed under a breach of contract, that public support would move it along, that it had been stated by the carrier in question that they did not want to make their citizens guinea pigs, that the call could go to the wrong place, that Council had in front of them victims of the call going to the wrong place, that it happened every single day in every city of the Country, that many of the wireless calls went to the wrong place, that technology that they could use to make it a better situation was going to make it better and they had software and safeguards in place to basically mitigate those arguments and nullify them, that the particular carrier that had the equipment installed on their towers and had refused to turn it on was Houston Cellular, that Houston Cellular was taken over by Bell South Cellular a couple of months before the decision was made, that there were two types of technologies and this was a network base where they put equipment on the cell towers, that there was another technology that was currently being developed and they expected it to be available in the next couple of years where it was handset based, basically a GPS Global Positioning Satellite chip in the phone and the phone could tell the network where it was as opposed to the network figuring it out, that it was their educated belief that it would be a hybrid of technology both network based and handset based that would be



rolled out to fix the problem, that their agency was in the forefront to bringing the technology to their citizens and they would work with both types of technologies and any other technology required to fix the problem if allowed to by the carrier, and Mayor Brown asked if absent the carrier doing something was there anything that Council could do to expedite getting the problem resolved, and Mr. Melcher stated that Council had a lot of political influence with the constituency and the community and that was the consumer who drove most business decisions, that the other major carrier in town GTE wireless, was very anxious to fulfill their obligations under the mutual contract, that the type of technology that they needed was a different flavor of digital and that technology was just now becoming available and they were anxious to put it on their towers and try it out, that the Council had an enormous potential for political influence. Council Members Goldberg and Keller absent.

After a lengthy discussion Council Member Robinson stated that the public should speak with their pocketbook and their economic clout, that he hoped they would give some consideration when they talked about permits for additional cell towers and if 911 filed with the FCC he hoped that they would visit with the Legal Department on what if anything specific that they as a city could file and probably pass a resolution so Council could lend the additional weight and force to that filing, and Council Member Bell asked if every other city had to fight the same battle or had they been able to address it and work with the cell companies, and Mr. Melcher stated that there were a handful of trials going on in the Country, that it was relatively new technology for 911 and wireless, but radio technology had been around since the first triangulation in World War II, so the technology was new but not the application was, and Council Member Bell asked if there was anyway for 911 to go in and install some type of caller identification device before the litigation and Mr. Melcher stated that the caller identification was provided by the carriers switch and they had a contract in place with all but two carriers to give them the phone number and that was the Phase One of the FCC order and they still did not have one with Houston Cellular, and Council Member Todd asked if the law suit was filed in State Court or Federal Court and Mr. Melcher stated that it was filed in State District Court for jurisdiction over the contract, that they expected a hearing in the next 30 days, and Council Member Todd asked Mr. Melcher to send him a copy of the petition of the case and his answer, that it might be good for Council as a body to pass some sort of resolution or simply to send a letter to the court and to both parties asking them to expedite the trial of the matter, and Council Member Parker stated that it had been very enlightening and informative and there were probably members of the audience who appreciated the presentation and realized that Council made a motion to hear it but it would have been more appropriate at the business meeting on Wednesday morning rather than making the rest of the public speakers wait all afternoon, and Council Member Quan stated that Council was presented materials regarding the Dallas Fire Department and it basically criticized Houston for being behind in technology but Mr. Melcher's presentation seemed to indicate that Houston was at the forefront in technology and asked how the Dallas Fire Department compared to Houston and why did they seem to have a better record, and Mr. Melcher stated that he had not seen the presentation that he was looking at but believed that it referred to their AVL technology, that the wireless location technology and AVL technology although somewhat similar were distinctly separate, that Dallas did not have a wireless location system in place although they were looking at one, that Houston did have one in place waiting to be turned on, that as far as comparison to dispatch centers, he had visited the Dallas center on numerous occasions and the technology they used was actually a second generation technology of something

that Houston used a later generation of, that they had the same vendor Southwestern Bell and plant equipment that was in front of the call taker, but Houston actually used a higher level of technology than they did. Council Members Galloway, Goldberg, Keller, Vasquez and Sanchez absent.

Mayor Brown asked Chief Tyra if they were in the process of putting civilians rather than firefighters in dispatch, and Chief Tyra stated yes, that they had abolished positions and the funding for those abolishment's would be used to hire the non-classified call takers to complete the funding for those positions, and Mayor Brown stated that when he was police chief they did that within the police department and it worked out very well, that one of the benefits for the police officers was the fact that they hired on to become police officers and not dispatchers and asked if that was the same with firefighters who wanted to fight fires rather than being in the dispatch, and Chief Tyra stated that yes, that it had been identified in several of the past studies that had been done on the Houston Fire Department, that civilization or non-classified personnel in call taker positions would be a benefit to put firefighters back on the tailboard of fire trucks, that currently they had some 21 firefighters that were in their second year of employment who were trained to do that job and they had eight additional injured firefighters that were doing it, that when they completed the abolishment of the classified jobs and take that funding they would have the resources to hire 42 non-classified call takers to have more than enough when they moved into consolidation and take care of the current problems they had over there. Council Members Galloway, Goldberg, Todd, Keller, Vasquez and Sanchez absent.

Council Member Castillo stated that it was counterintuitive to him that a non-classified person could do a better job as a call taker, that they would think that at the scene of a fire they would want to have the best resource available at the other end of the phone to coordinate with other people who may be going to the scene, to give whatever support was needed, and having either a most junior classified person or a non-classified person just went against intuition, and Chief Tyra stated that there were two issues, that they inherited a position that classified people did not want to take the promotional test to enter the lower ranking dispatcher positions, that it was the administrations position that the radio operator would be classified firefighters, that the people who were in direct communication with the ambulance and the fire trucks, the incident commanders and all the support areas would be classified, the only people they were non-classified civilian call takers were those people that would be viewing the screens that Mr. Melcher had presented, so that it was a mechanical process, easily trained in emergency medical dispatches around the Country, that it was cost saving and efficient to train those people to do that job as a call taker, and Council Member Castillo asked what the supervisory level above the call taker, and Chief Tyra stated there were three levels of working in their dispatch center, the call taker, the junior dispatcher, which was equivalent to the junior captain rank was the radio operator, and the supervision came from the recommendation of medical priorities to allow three senior dispatchers, who were the people responsible for the day to day operation of the center, and Council Member Quan stated that at a time when they had the tragedies with dispatch they were seeking to eliminate dispatch positions, how soon would they be filling the position that were not being filled by the individuals who were allocated initially to do the work, and Chief Tyra stated that every position was currently filled by the medical priorities recommendation, that once consolidation was completed they would need 21 additional call taker positions to assist in the consolidation. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Goldberg, Keller,

Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Susan Jackson, 1475 W. Gray, Houston, Texas 77019 (713-529-6909) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Mayor Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Boney, Council Members Galloway, Goldberg, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Richard Reyes, 333 South Jensen, Houston, Texas 77003 (713-222-1213) appeared and stated that he wanted to thank Council Member Parker for her comments about it being out of order for the community speakers that had been present today and had less than half the City Council Members present to hear them, but regardless he was present to thank them and give them good news and that was to thank them for the program they had at their cultural center, that he was the Director of Talente Bilingue at the Houston Cultural Center that was celebrating 23 years in Houston serving the inner city community, that one of the City programs, Houston Media Source, formally Access Houston for the past five years had served their youth and because of that he thought many lives had been saved, that because of that program they had been able to reach tens of thousands of students with programming on racism, gang prevention, drop outs, AIDS, et cetera., and Mr. Mario Jaramillo passed out videos to Council, who was one of their students who joined them five years ago from Reagan High School and was now a junior at the University of Houston and was one of the first students in the video program and since then had traveled to France, Russia, the Netherlands and had received two grants on his own to do programming on the homeless and other inner city concerns, that their students had videos and right now there was an exhibit at the Children's Museum called "My Block" and was a video presentation done by the children at the Clayton Homes Projects, that they had been able to present arts that sometimes did not get enough air play, like flamingo arts and Spanish rock besides all the other community concerns, that they had community meetings and community leaders, that the videos were available and they sent them to other schools, that they hoped to continue the program for Houston Media Source, that it was very much needed in their community, that they had not been blessed ever with the Mayor's After School Program, but they had benefited greatly from this program in which hundreds of students had participated and tens of thousands had viewed. Mayor Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Boney, Council Members Galloway, Goldberg, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Clayton Lee, 317 W. 20th, Houston, Texas 77008 (713-862-4368) appeared and stated that what he had to say he really wanted to tell the Council and a special message for the Mayor and he would come back sometime when everybody was present. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Goldberg, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Ellen Gold, 6223 Valley Forge, Houston, Texas 77057 (713-523-1268) appeared and stated that her family used Jungman Branch Library all the time, that an unfortunate thing happened a couple of weeks ago, that they rented two books on tape and a video, that she went to Dallas to visit her sister and her car was broken into and they stole them, that she came back home and called Jungman's and asked what was

her responsibility and they said to replace them and they wanted \$150.00 for all three items, that she did not think that there was any way that they could be worth that so she looked on the Internet and purchased all three items for less than \$50.00 and took them to Jungman and they said that they did not have the power to accept them and for her to go downtown, that after a thousand phone calls and not getting anywhere she drove downtown and dropped them off with Barbara Gubbin's secretary, that she got a phone call back and they said they could not accept those, that they had to use special rights for video's and that was why the video cost \$90.00 plus a \$10.00 processing fee, that she just did not think that she was being treated fairly, she felt like she was robbed in Dallas and was being robbed right now by the library and did not think it was fair, that she had the videos and was happy to turn them over and pay a penalty for processing fee, but did not feel that she had to pay \$100.00 for Fiddler on the Roof when she bought it for \$12.00 over the Internet. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Council Member Quan moved to suspend the rules to hear representative from library, and was seconded by Council Member Vasquez. All voting aye. Nays none. Mayor Pro Tem Boney absent due to being ill. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. MOTION 2000-0255 ADOPTED.

Upon questions by Council Member Quan, Ms. Jessica Pugil, Planning and Communications Manager, stated that she was very sympathetic to Ms. Gold's situation, that the library did offer a solution to people when something like that happened, that when they borrowed an item from the library and it was stolen they offered them to pay the fee, and in this case it was \$150, and they would give them a receipt which they could use to file a claim with the insurance agency to be reimbursed, and in this case Ms. Gold had opted not to file the issue with her insurance and she opted not to get that benefit, that the \$150.00 that Ms. Gold had to pay was for a couple of things, that typically when an item was lost they charged a \$10.00 processing fee, and in this situation \$30.00 of the \$150.00 was the processing fees, then there was the cost of the videos, and on each video the library was required to buy a public performance rights in order to rent them out to people, that the warning that they got on videos they had to pay for that, and so a lion's share of the \$150.00 was the cost of the public performance rights that the library would have to purchase for the items, that the books on tapes were similar. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Ms. Gold stated that she asked Ms. Terrell what if she had not said that she did not have insurance would they make an exception and had had they made exceptions before and she said yes, and Ms. Pugil stated that they did not typically have situations where they waived the fee for people who did not have car insurance. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Council Member Goldberg stated that part of the fees were paying for the rights to distribute it, but the thief that stole the video did not steal the rights, they still had the rights and Ms. Pugil stated that she did not know that and it was a very good question that she would have to clarify, but had been told by the chief of their technical services that they would have to purchase the performance rights to that item, but the other issue

that went with it was that books on tape, there were many versions of them, and the issue that the library was particularly concerned with was setting precedence, that people always wanted them to replace items, and Council Member Goldberg stated that he would like to review the policy as to why they could not replace them without once again paying for the rights to distribute them. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Upon questions by Council Member Todd, Ms. Gold stated that she was initially told that the children's Walt Disney tape was \$89 with a \$10 processing fee, that the Anita Hill tape was \$34 and the Bill Gates tape was \$24, that when she got the books they were not even in their real cases they were in just classic clear cases, and Ms. Pugal stated that they did not want anyone to give them anything, that they wanted them to pay the fee, that this was a City ordinance that when items were lost that they pay a replacement fee and a processing fee, then the library would go out and buy new items, that typically if they had more than a \$10 fee against the Power Card they could not rent any items out, and Council Member Todd stated that if it was an ordinance change that was needed he would like for the Library Department to prepare something for him on that so he could look into it, that seemed a little bit too much for someone who was a crime victim, and asked if there was a crime victims fund, and Mr. Bibler stated that they could check with Mr. Kahan. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Council Member Tatro stated that this was an item that they should take up, that in other jurisdictions they allowed for reduced price for stolen items, that one of the comments that disturbed him was that she had insurance and the \$150 charge seemed to be appropriate and his concern was that if someone could replace something in kind for a cheaper price and what he heard from the representative from the Library was that they could simply give her a receipt and her insurance company would pay the \$150 yet an insurance company would look at what was stolen and try to replace it in kind also, that if a citizen could replace them in kind that should be a policy that they should try to work with the citizens and he would recommend that they review the ordinance. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Council Member Vasquez stated that this did not sound very citizen friendly at a time when they were trying to win support for the Library Master Plan and he hoped that there was some flexibility on the specific item and also looked forward on looking at it in terms of the ordinance. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Mr. Harold Martin, 8615 Pilgham, Houston, Texas 77029 (713-672-6786) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Mr. Joseph Gianakos, 4313 Harrisburg, Houston, Texas 77023 (713-755-2711) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Mr. John Shike, 9898 Bissonnet, Ste. 120, Houston, Texas 77036 (713-776-9785) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called. Mayor Brown, Council Members Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Mr. Timothy Brandley, P.O. Box 10262, Houston, Texas 77206 (713-683-8628) appeared and stated that on November 29, 1999 he took his wife to the health facility on Stadium Drive to get a birth certificate, that they pulled up and parked and within a few minutes a van came up and a guy got out and told him to leave or he would cite him, that his wife went in and he came back and picked her up 3 hours later, that the guy was so slick that he sent him a ticket in the mail, that he had never seen anything like that, that when he got it he went to 600 Sawyer thinking that he would get to talk to a supervisor and was told to fill out his name and address and they would let him speak to the judge, but when he got in there they turned on the tape recorder and he could tell right then that he was going right down the tube and did not have the right to a jury trial or nothing, that she asked him if he denied being there and he said not he did not deny being there but he denied the charges against him that they were unfounded, that the problem was that the guy did not give him the ticket, and she said that they did not have to give him a ticket that it was a privilege that they gave it to him, and he asked Council if it was a privilege. Mayor Brown, Council Members Todd, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Upon questions by Council Member Parker, Mr. Brandley stated that he had not paid the ticket, that he had a hearing at 600 Sawyer and was told that the ticket would be reduced from \$75 to \$50, that for something that he had not done he did not believe they were entitled to a dime of his money, and Council Member Parker stated that she did not know that it was a policy that they could mail someone a ticket and Mr. Bibler stated that he had not heard about it before but did not know why it could not be done, that he did not see any difference than leaving it on the windshield of the car, that there was a presumption that the person who was registered to the car was the violator and they could rebut that before the hearing officer. Mayor Brown, Council Members Todd, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Quan asked Mr. Bradley if it would have mattered if the officer had given the ticket as opposed to mailing the ticket and Mr. Bradley stated that if he was going to give him a ticket he should have been man enough to give it to him then rather than mail it. Mayor Brown, Council Members Todd, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Goldberg stated that a few years ago parking tickets were decriminalized and now it was a civil matter not a criminal matter and for that reason the hearings were held without witnesses just with the hearing officer and if he did not like the decision of the hearing officer he could appeal that decision and Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo stated that Mr. Cantu from Citizens Assistance could get with him and give him the best advice on what to do next. Mayor Brown, Council Members Todd, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)



Mr. Ron Hanley, 3119 Maysel, Houston, Texas 77080 (713-467-9790) appeared and stated that he had been present twice before back in 1992, that it was an old problem, Mayor Bob Lanier, that he had bought four VA homes off of Martin Luther King Street and the City shut him down for five years on his home because they did not want him selling to a bunch of Mexicans, that what happened was that after five years shut down the City Legal Department went ahead and released him and he asked them what had changed and they said nothing, that everything was the same as it was five years ago, and he said there was really no reason for shutting him down and they said no that it was just politics and the Legal Department, that he then put in a lawsuit into the State District Court and the State District Court went ahead and set a trial date, but the City removed it to Federal District Court and Federal District Court did not do racism, did not do discrimination they dismissed it, then they go to Federal Appeals Court and that was just the same thing again, dismissal, then finally to the Supreme Court and there again it was just dismissed cause they did not do racism, so what he was left with was putting up a board outside the Federal District Court which read "Feds racist 187 injun 0, City of Houston stole Ron's home and trial rights for 10 years, why, Ron sold four VA homes off of Martin Luther King Street to Mexicans, Black and White thing was what they called it, the City of Houston politics and Legal were greedy, fed funded, deficit welfare racist, Black and White thing, that the City of Houston fed elite kill human, civil and trial rights, for example Cherokee Sam Houston killed his family and 300 tribes of indians for feds 2.5 million dollars, that Texas betrayed Alamo defenders as 187 plus 71 injun equals 187 plus 0 equals 187, that was the figure they used today, that there were 71 indian bodies up there, that Sam taught Hitler gun, greed and oil, that City of Houston cheats Indians, Mexicans, Asians and the world out of life, land, labor and oil, that feds fund racism so fed court dismissed racism, Black and White thing, vote for Governor George Bush Jr., half a billion dollar S&L con man Neal Bush's brother, that was how the whole thing started, and he signed it Ron Hanley, Aggie 73, S&L con mayor, Bob Lanier's bitch. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo stated that Mr. Dan Pruitt was in the chamber to give him any further assistance. Mayor Brown, Council Members Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Ester Gonzalez, 401 Estelle, Houston, Texas 77003 (713-223-3029) appeared and stated that between Wilmer and the 4200 block of Harrisburg, that her concern was the homeless that walked by her house and came to her back door to ask for handouts, that she just retired from the University of Houston and that was why she lived in that section of the City, that she did not want to commute, that she liked to work in the yard now that she had retired and had to face the street all the time because she was concerned about all the homeless men walking by, that they came and passed by and always asked for a handout, that they went from one mission downtown to the open door mission on Harrisburg but they choose to walk on Wilmer Street, that they relieved themselves on the streets and worse, that they had done terrible things in parking lots and were beginning to fix their beds all over her neighborhood, that she was concerned that now that the Enron Field was going to be opened they were going to be pushed out of that area and into hers, and she hoped that someone could have a solution for them, that she really did not feel sorry for them because she had to work all her life, that she thought they should be put in a camp or somewhere, that everyone should look after themselves, that some of them might be mentally retarded she did not know, but she needed to have something done about it, and Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo stated that the problems had been noted before and at were trying at every turn they could to find solutions, that it was a difficult problem, and Ms. Gonzales stated that it was a difficult

problem for them because they lived there, that it was not going to be a difficult problem for everybody else and she did not want to move, why should she, she was there first, and hoped that Council Member Vasquez, who was in her district, did something about it, that it was a very big task. Mayor Brown, Council Members Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Randee Wagstaff, 2301 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002 (713-654-0009) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called. Mayor Brown, Council Members Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Maurice Alexander, 8603 Flossie Mae, Houston, Texas 77029 (713-676-1319) appeared and stated that he was from the Pleasantville area, District B, that he was present before talking about Gellhorn Street and was told to talk to Mr. Ned Johnson concerning if there was going to be a widening of Gellhorn Street, that he had from the Mayor's office projections to 2004, that the projection there was to extend another street through Pleasantville that was already part of the way through Pleasantville which was called Munn Street which came from McCarty, that it was still going to bypass Gellhorn Street, that Gellhorn Street was located between an elementary school and a middle school, that the area was so small that they had conflicts everyday and someone was going to get shot, killed or hurt, that his problem was that when people came to Council and Council listened they were very aware, but what the Council and Mayor did not understand was that some of the people that he was paying big money were out there doing nothing and he did not have a way to find out, that there was a whole lot of things that had happened in Houston both criminal and accidental because that particular organizations did not use protocol, that they had police walking through the areas and there was loss of violence, that there were a lot of things that would have happened had they not been there, that if they were not going to have some patrol out there they should not have started it because that one particular thing was one of the best things that had happened to the City of Houston. Mayor Brown, Council Members Goldberg, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr./Coach R. J. Bobby Taylor, 3107 Sumpter, Houston, Texas 77028 FA20234511 had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called. Mayor Brown, Council Members Goldberg, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Gladys Yvonne Carter, 5034 Pershing, Houston, Texas 77033 (no phone) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when her name was called. Mayor Brown, Council Members Goldberg, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Suzanne Poole, P.O. Box 1035, Missouri City, Texas 77000 (281-438-5427) appeared and stated that she had handouts for Council, that it was part of the Citizens Bill of Rights that the Houston Professional Towing Association worked on with the Wrecker Inspectors Office, that there were two aspects that the towing association was formed for, that it was to support the industry and to educate the industry and the public,

that one of the things they were present for was the fact that there was a lot of controversy about some evils within the system, that they were aware of that and also aware that there were ordinances in place that gave the Wrecker Inspector Office and the Houston Police Department Office the power to stop a lot of it, that she had talked to Mr. Ellis Milam who was the head of the Wrecker Inspector Office about whether they really needed an additional municipal court just to handle the wrecker problems that they had and his belief was that if the City attorney's would take better care of the cases and make sure that they came to court instead of being postponed they could facilitate getting the people out of the industry that were doing the wrong things and keeping the court process down, that they all knew what it cost to run a municipal court and how much was involved in setting one up, that there was also a lot of controversy about having a particular contract for the towing from Enron Field, that one of the things that Council had in front of them was the definition of consent and non-consent towing, that consent towing was always negotiable and most of those would be at an accident scene, that one of the reasons that they drew up the Citizens Bill of Rights was to put those rights in front of the citizens at the very moment that they needed it the most, at the accident scene, that what they also wanted to talk about was that private property towing, which was going to be the ground surface towing around Enron Field was already regulated at \$75, that police tows were non-consent and were already \$75, that there was nowhere that there could be any overcharging downtown so there was not need for a contract, that there were plenty of ground surface people in place to take care of any problems, that one of the things that they would like to do to give more reliable and accurate statistics on what accidents were being towed and at what price, and what private properties were a problem; that they had already requested through the police chiefs office 100 accidents that had happened currently, that they wanted to follow those back from the time that those people had their accidents until the tow was completely dispersed of and find out what the charges were and what zones were having the most tows. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Parker stated that they had been discussing it in the Regulatory Affairs Committee and hoped that Ms. Poole would contact the chairman of the Committee, Council Member Todd, and ask to be put on the agenda the next time the item came up, and Ms. Poole stated that no offense to Council Member Parker but she had already left four different phone calls with Council Member Todd's office and with Mr. Biggs his aide and was told by Mr. Biggs less than two weeks ago that there was not going to be any discussions of changes within the wrecker industry and obviously that had not proven to be the fact and wished that Council Member Todd was present so that they could do that, that they wanted to work with him and wanted to work with the City and its citizens and wanted to help their own industry they were just not being made aware of what they could do, that the only thing they could offer were accurate surveys that they were already willing to do and pay the cost of, and Council Member Parker stated she would be willing to meet with her more on the issue. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Donna Roth, 1631 Harold, Houston, Texas 77006 (713-525-5546) appeared and stated that she was with the Near Town Association and was present to say thank you, that for years they had complained and at times whined and harangued the Mayor's Office and City Council about the Westheimer Street Festival, that they in Montrose

believed in working with the system and within the system, that when it was identified that there was a serious loophole in the street function ordinance Council Member Bell initiated a revision and they in the Montrose community then reached out to the big festival organizers, the churches and the schools that might be affected by the changes in the ordinances, that often times when they asked for changes in the status quo the changes that solve one problem could cause other events other problems, that the new ordinance did no harm to any legitimate non-profit event held in Houston large or small, that they did that because contrary to some reports they were not anti festival or anti party, that they were wonderful venues for bringing communities out and for bringing communities together, that they were also very effective in raising private dollars for public goals, that the system worked, that when it did not work as well as it could Council Members Bell, Parker, Boney and Todd helped make those changes and the new ordinance passed Council unanimously, that it worked. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Jim Waters, 2039 Pine River Dr., Kingwood, Texas 77345 (281-351-3174) appeared and stated that they had stood aside respectfully while they honored the fallen firefighters and now they asked that they honor their six dead in Kingwood since 1997 and indeed the eleven people who had died in Houston in the last four years due to the City of Houston and Houston Fire Department EMS failures, that four of the dead were children and one of those was an infant, that one of the dead was an HPD officer and all had family and friends who mourned their passing and whose lives were forever changed, that those who died also died in the performance of their duties as children, husbands, fathers and grandfathers, that Mayor Brown was told repeatedly in March and April 1998 of the problems in Houston EMS response times in Kingwood and they also told him they suspected the problems existed in Houston as well not just in Kingwood, that he was offered a solution to the problem in March and April 1998 and the solution offer had more benefits for the citizens of Houston than for Kingwood and he would be happy to enumerate those for him, that he failed to find the courage and integrity to do the right thing to save lives and apparently no effective action was taken since three more deaths had occurred since he was told of the problem, two in Kingwood and Officer Blando, that what they now demanded was that he give the urgent and life threatening issue the same attention and resources that he gave to stadiums, grand prix races and downtown hotels, and they ask that he stand up to anyone who opposed measures to save lives or to better serve the citizens of Houston, and spend some of their money on those issues, that failure on Mayor Brown's part to take immediate and effective action would result in more needless deaths and would also result in the logical conclusion that perhaps he was unfit for the office he now held and may precipitate a recall election petition under Article 7A of the City charter, that they only needed about 51,000 signatures as they looked at that article and Kingwood alone had about 30,000 registered voters, that here was the chance for Mayor Brown to truly be the Mayor for all the citizens of Houston not just for those who had given him record campaign contributions, please do not let anymore children, fathers, grandfathers and husbands die needlessly and please honor their dead by taking immediate and effective action to remedy the serious and well documented deficiencies in Houston EMS response times, that he was trying to be specific by saying Houston EMS system, it was not just the fire department and they could not just point the finger at Chief Tyra, it was the overall system which they got when they were forcibly annexed. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis,

Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

President Joseph Charles, P.O. Box 53831, Houston, Texas 77052 (713-710-1715) appeared and stated that he President Joseph Charles of Royalty and also a certified volunteer deputy registrar of Harris County and one of the only official presidential candidates for the upcoming presidential election, that it was for reelection, that he defeated impeached President Bill Clinton and Al Gore during the past presidential election that City Council Chambers was being charged with and Lee P. Brown, that his case address had been criminally discarded and charges were that City government and police brutality by HPD Police Department known as assassins and abusive power and political conspiracy against him, that Lee P. Brown had written knowledge of his case. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Jeffrey Cole, 2609 Crocker Street, Houston, Texas 77006 (713-528-7578) appeared and stated that he was present to remind everyone that in a very well run hearing, a very competent hearing officer said no to John Florez and his festival and then 12 very competent Council Members upheld that decision and said no again, and now John Florez had brought before the Mayor and City Council a list of demands, that one among them demanding the City provide services for the event and if his other demands were not met he would not be able to stop the momentum of the renegade festival and again promising a physical confrontation with Houston Police, and remember that the force behind the momentum for the renegade festival was John Florez and that was proven by advertising and flyers posted by him, could they not see that this man was blackmailing the City, and how much would they take from John Florez, that he for one did not want a penny of his tax dollars subsidizing John Florez's profits, that he had already refused repeated offers of help, that please do not now cave in to his threats, what message would that send to the citizens of Houston. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Ed Gonzales, 239 Westheimer, Houston, Texas 77006 (713-526-2759) appeared and stated that he was with the Near Town Association and present in reference to the proposed Mid Town festival location, that the Mid Town Association and the Near Town Association had the same concerns, was it right or fair given the negative history of the community distrust associated with the event, and would they, the Mid Town Association have the same opportunity as the Near Town Association to have a voice in the process, that he conveyed that message from those who could not be present today, that the Mid Town Association president and past president, the pastor of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church message was to please not do anything until they had a chance to speak with all of them either privately or in Council Chambers, that of the four streets that had been mentioned for the location, three of those surrounded the church on three sides. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Parker stated that Mr. Florez had officially filed an application for a new festival site, however she believed it had been modified, that she had been trying

to get with Traffic and Transportation to try to get the exact streets, but it was her understanding that it had been moved north and farther away from Holy Rosary, that Mr. Florez did not have to go through the same hearing process because Travis Street was not a major thoroughfare the way Westheimer was, and Mr. Gonzales stated that went back to his comment about was it fair given the history of the event that why could this community not have some voice in the process, even if it was not a part of the ordinance as it stood now, and Council Member Parker stated they would certainly try to take into account everybody's concerns but it was not covered by the same part of the ordinance that the other was. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. James Partsch-Galvan, 1611 Holman, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-528-2607) appeared and stated that he was a crime victim also and wanted the City of Houston to do more, that he wanted James Honey, who lived at 1611 Frances additionally charged with attempted murder, that if he died because of the assault that he did on him and the vandalism on his house then he wanted him charged with murder, and if the investigation of the vandalism and burglary of his home and house at 1611 Holman revealed that Council Member Parker had something to do with it along with James Honey and the Mid Town Civic Association he was going to sue all of them in addition to appealing to the Latino Community to ram it down her throat which were some of her favorite words, that he was the one who started the Mid Town Houston Association and those hypocritical people over there, the Mid Town Civic Club changed their name and the James Honey who threatened him three years ago, and Council Member Castillo had that letter, and the police knew that now he took the law into his own hands and vandalized his house and he was going to sue him, Council Member Parker if she had something to do with it, and the Mid Town Civic Club, and he supported the art festival going on. Mayor Brown, Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller, Sanchez, Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

At 4:49 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Parker and seconded by Council Member Vasquez, City Council recessed until 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 23, 2000.

City Council reconvened in the City Council Chamber at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 23, 2000, with Mayor Lee P. Brown presiding and with Council Members Bruce Tatro, Carol M. Galloway, Mark Goldberg, Jew Don Boney, Jr., Rob Todd, Mark A. Ellis, Bert Keller, Gabriel Vasquez, John E. Castillo, Annise D. Parker, Gordon Quan, Orlando Sanchez, Chris Bell and Carroll G. Robinson; Mr. Al Haines, Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office, Mr. Richard Lewis, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office; Mr. Anthony Hall, City Attorney; and Ms. Martha Stein, Agenda Director, present.

At 8:27 a.m. the City Secretary read the descriptions or captions of items on the Agenda.

At 9:08 a.m. Mayor Brown called the meeting to order. Council Members Galloway, Goldberg, Boney, Todd, Keller and Robinson absent.



## MAYOR'S REPORT

Briefing on Houston 2000 Strategic Transportation Plan by the Administration – was called.

Mr. Haines and Mr. Lewis presented to Members of Council a written report and displayed a video relative to the Houston 2000 Strategic Transportation Plan and discussed its goals, trends, strategies, etc., as the video was presented. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent.

Council Member Castillo thanked the Mayor's Office and the agencies who were involved for the work they put into developing the plan and he thought it was a great beginning. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Bell and Robinson absent.

Mayor Brown expressed appreciation to those who had been involved in addressing the issue of mobility. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Bell and Robinson absent.

## Consent Agenda (Items through 50) were considered as follows:

### MISCELLANEOUS - NUMBERS 1 through 11A

1. CONFIRMATION of the appointment of **MS. ANITA GARTEN** to Position 12 of the **CITY HALL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**, for term to expire December 31, 2001 – was presented, moved by Council Member Sanchez, and seconded by Council Member Boney. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0256 ADOPTED.
2. CONFIRMATION of the appointment and reappointment of the following to the **ETHICS COMMITTEE**, for terms to expire December 31, 2001:  
Position 5 – **MR. ALEXANDER CHAE**, reappointment  
Position 7 – **MR. LIAS J. STEEN**, appointment  
- was presented, moved by Council Member Sanchez, and seconded by Council Member Boney. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0257 ADOPTED.
4. CONFIRMATION of the reappointment of the following to the **HOUSTON READ COMMISSION**, three year terms to expire January 1, 2003:  
Position 19 – **MS. DOROTHY CHOW**  
Position 22 – **MS. SALLIE ALCORN**  
- was presented, moved by Council Member Sanchez, and seconded by Council Member Boney. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0258 ADOPTED.
5. **MEND MOTION #98-324, 2/25/98**, to reflect the correct expiration date of Position 4 of **REINVESTMENT ZONE #1** to December 31, 2000 – was presented, moved by Council Member Sanchez, and seconded by Council Member Boney. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0259 ADOPTED.

8. RECOMMENDATION from Chief of Police for approval of Law Enforcement Agreements between **HARRIS COUNTY** and **MEMORIAL ASHFORD TOWNHOUSE CORPORATION** for Law Enforcement Services of Harris County Constables from Precinct 5 and Sheriff Deputies for a period of ten months and four days - **DISTRICT G – KELLER** - was presented, moved by Council Member Sanchez, and seconded by Council Member Boney. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0260 ADOPTED.
9. RECOMMENDATION from Chief of Police for approval of Law Enforcement Agreements between **HARRIS COUNTY** and **WESTBURY CIVIC CLUB, INC** for Law Enforcement Services of Harris County Constables from Precinct 5 and Sheriff Deputies for a period of twelve months **DISTRICT C – GOLDBERG** - was presented, moved by Council Member Sanchez, and seconded by Council Member Boney. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0261 ADOPTED.

**PROPERTY** - NUMBERS 14 through 21

15. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering to purchase Parcel A95-91, located at 11914 7th Street, owned by Michael Joseph Sawyer, Patrick Michael Palmer, and Tri Huu Phan, Trustees for the Alief English Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, for the **KIRKWOOD ROAD PAVING PROJECT from Bissonnet Street to Alief-Clodine Road**, CIP N-0575-00-1 - \$12,376.00 - Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT F – ELLIS** - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0262 ADOPTED.
16. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering to purchase Parcels A95-94 and A95-95, located at 4134 South Kirkwood Road, owned by Wessie Agee, Jr. and wife, Loretta I. Agee, for the **KIRKWOOD ROAD PAVING PROJECT from Bissonnet Street to Alief-Clodine Road**, CIP N-0575-00-1 - \$116,549.00 - Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT F – ELLIS** - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0263 ADOPTED.
17. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering to purchase Parcel A95-97, located at 11903 Alief-Clodine Road, owned by Tak Hung Seto (an undivided one-half interest) and Sai Lin Seto (an undivided one-half interest), for the **KIRKWOOD ROAD PAVING PROJECT from Bissonnet Street to Alief-Clodine Road**, CIP N-0575-00-1 \$58,312.00 - Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT F – ELLIS** - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0264 ADOPTED.

18. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering to purchase Parcel A95-104, located at 4115 Kirkwood Road, owned by Christopher R. Collins, for the **KIRKWOOD ROAD PAVING PROJECT from Bissonnet Street to Alief-Clodine Road**, CIP N-0575-00-1 - \$48,227.00 - Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT F – ELLIS** - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0265 ADOPTED.
19. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering to purchase Parcel A98-55, located at 2440 Almeda-Genoa Road, owned by Bryant-Reagan-Courtney, Inc, a Texas corporation, Bryant P. Jensen, President, for the **ALMEDA-GENOA ROAD WIDENING PROJECT from Almeda Road to State Highway 288**, CIP N-0493-01-1 - \$275.00 - Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT D – BONEY** - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0266 ADOPTED.
20. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering to purchase Parcels L98-9 and L98-11, located in the 800 block of Almeda-Genoa Road, owned by Rolyat Limited, a limited partnership, Donald P. DeWalch, Managing General Partner, for the **ALMEDA-GENOA ROAD WIDENING PROJECT from Almeda Road to State Highway 288**, CIP N-0493-01-1 - \$84,359.00 - Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT D – BONEY** - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0267 ADOPTED.
21. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering to purchase Parcels A99-1, A99-1A and A99-1B, located at 16507 Hedgecroft Drive, owned by Greenbriar Holdings Houston, LTD, a Texas general partnership Mark Cullins, General Partner, for the **NORTH BELT LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT**, CIP R-0267-00-1 - \$25,134.00 Enterprise Fund - **DISTRICT B – GALLOWAY** - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0268 ADOPTED.

**PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS** - NUMBERS 22 through 30

**LOW BIDS**

23. **SMITH TANK & EQUIPMENT COMPANY** for One Storage Tank for Department of Public Works & Engineering - Replacement - \$15,900.00 - Enterprise Fund – had been pulled from the Agenda by the Administration, and was not considered.
24. **BRIGGS EQUIPMENT CO.** for Hydraulic Hand Carts for Department of Public Works & Engineering - New - \$41,750.00 - Enterprise Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez.

All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0269 ADOPTED.

**OTHER**

26. **KINLOCH EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY, INC** for CUES, Closed Circuit TV Equipment Repair Parts and Service for Department of Public Works & Engineering - \$338,000.00 - Enterprise Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0270 ADOPTED.

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES** - NUMBERS 31 through 50

31. RESOLUTION approving the creation of the Southwest Houston Redevelopment Authority; approving the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws thereof; confirming the appointment of the Initial Directors and Chairperson - **DISTRICT F – ELLIS** – had not been received, and the City Secretary announced it would be considered at the end of the Agenda if received during the meeting.
32. ORDINANCE consenting to the creation of **HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 371** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. ORDINANCE 2000-126 ADOPTED.
33. ORDINANCE consenting to the addition of 16.564 acres of land to **CHARTERWOOD MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**, for inclusion in its district - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. ORDINANCE 2000-127 ADOPTED.
38. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing amendment No. 3 to Managing Agent Agreement for Food and Beverage Services at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston between the City and **ENTERTAINMENT ONE, INC - DISTRICT B – GALLOWAY** – had not been received, and the City Secretary announced it would be considered at the end of the Agenda if received during the meeting.
40. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing an Urban Redevelopment Interlocal Agreement between the City and **HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL EQUALIZATION FUND** for Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. ORDINANCE 2000-128 ADOPTED.
42. ORDINANCE nominating the Houston Community Call Centers, L. P. Project as a State Enterprise Project; authorizing an application to the Texas Department of Economic Development for the designation of a State Enterprise Project; authorizing the provision of additional information that may be required as part of the State Review Process - **DISTRICT I – CASTILLO** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. ORDINANCE 2000-129 ADOPTED.

46. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing amendment to sponsorship agreement between the City and **BRIARGROVE PARK PROPERTY OWNERS, INC** for Garbage Collection Service for the respective subdivisions - 5 Months - \$60.00 - General Fund - **DISTRICT G – KELLER** - was. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. ORDINANCE 2000-130 ADOPTED.
49. ORDINANCE appropriating \$2,000,000.00 out of the Fire Consolidated Construction Fund for Renovation/Reconstruction of Various Fire Department Facilities, CIP C-0122-01 - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. ORDINANCE 2000-131 ADOPTED.
50. ORDINANCE appropriating \$5,000.00 out of Parks Special Fund (Fund 491) for Demolition of the Basketball Pavilion at Gutierrez Park - **DISTRICT I – CASTILLO** - was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. ORDINANCE 2000-132 ADOPTED.

**Items removed from the Consent Agenda were considered as follows:**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

3. CONFIRMATION of the appointment of the following to the **HOUSTON CLEAN CITY COMMISSION**, one year terms to expire February 1, 2001:
  - Position A – **MS. SHIRLEY BLUDAU**
  - Position C – **MS. CHARLENE O’SHEA**
  - Position E – **MR. GLENN GRANTOM**
  - Position F – **MR. PAT POWERS**
  - Position G – **MS. PAM HOLM**
  - Position H – **MS. SHANNA BARNSTONE**
  - Position I – **MR. GREGORY RINCON**- was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0271 ADOPTED.
6. RECOMMENDATION from the City Attorney to **AMEND MOTION #99-1949, passed 11/9/99**, to increase spending by \$5,984.00, from \$15,000.00 to \$20,984.00, for purchase of additional payroll services from Payroll Partners, in connection with a lawsuit styled Juan Vela et al v. City of Houston now pending in Cause No. H-97-3741 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas – was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, seconded by Council Member Castillo, and was tagged by Council Member Sanchez. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. **Note: Council Member Sanchez released his tag later in the meeting.**
7. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney for approval of additional funding for payment of annual premium to Reliance Insurance Company for supersedeas bond which perfected appeal in the litigation styled City of Houston v. Piotrowski - \$76,762.00 - Property and Casualty Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays

none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0272 ADOPTED.

10. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for payment of \$594,072.00 permit fee to the **HARRIS-GALVESTON COASTAL SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT** for Calendar Year 2000 Ground Water Withdrawal - Enterprise Fund - was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. MOTION 2000-0273 ADOPTED.
11. ORDINANCE appropriating \$192,290.00 out of Solid Waste Consolidated Construction Fund as an additional appropriation for construction of the Southeast Service Center under construction contract with **WILLIAMS INDUSTRIES, INC**, CIP L-0029-01-3, approved by Ordinance No. 97-766; providing funding for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Solid Waste Consolidated Construction Fund 427 - **DISTRICT I – CASTILLO** – was presented.

Council Member Keller stated that Item 11 was a faulty design and a case of haste makes waste and he was glad Ms. McGilbra was on board now and confident if they had her a couple of years ago they would probably not be facing this, but he wanted assurance from the Legal Department that they would vigorously pursue and identify who was at fault and get them to reimburse the city for the taxpayers of the City of Houston; and Mr. Hall stated that he had that assurance; that developing the facts were critical to the proceeding and they welcomed any assistance he could give and as soon that was done they had his commitment it would be pursued as vigorously as they knew how.

Council Member Castillo stated that he agreed with Council Member Keller's assessment of the situation, but the problem was here was a facility sorely needed and the contractor could only go by the work in progress and if it was held up it would probably cost more; and he would urge passage of the item and then asking the Legal Department through the Mayor to find where any remedies lie.

Council Member Keller stated that he believed Ms. McGilbra would have a formula to rectify these in the future, but Council could not just keep saying okay this time, people needed to know when putting their names on the line that they were responsible for the accuracy; that he would allow this to go on because he knew Mr. Hall was a great attorney and it would be pursued.

Council Member Sanchez stated that Council Member Keller was very optimistic and he hoped it brought something about; that he had been on Council over four years and had been asking for the city to pursue designers with omissions and errors and was less than satisfied in the city's aggressive pursuit; that this particular designer was rewarded with millions of dollars of design contracts at the airport recently and there was absolutely no excuse for it and he believed if Council Member Keller went through the change orders there were about three totaling about \$60,000.

Council Member Sanchez yielded to Council Member Keller who stated that he did not know he had such a big job elsewhere in the city and found it unusual that someone would hold them for ransom saying they may possibly stop work unless they received



something; that he felt they should want to work with them in good faith and hoped if someone with the organization was present today that they would take note of that.

Mayor Brown stated that Mr. Hall understood what he needed to do and he was sure that he would.

Council Member Vasquez stated that he saw the problem as being more systemic in nature and would encourage the City Attorney to consider this as a component of the contractor debarment program and set up a way to fix the system as opposed to every single contract going before Council; that it seemed a much better remedy than cross-examining each individual issue; and Mayor Brown stated that Mr. Hall should follow-up and address his concern. Council Member Castillo absent.

A vote was called on Item 11. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Castillo absent. ORDINANCE 2000-133 ADOPTED.

11a. RECOMMENDATION from Director Building Services Department for approval of Change Order No. 10 in the amount of \$192,290.00 on contract with **WILLIAMS INDUSTRIES, INC** for construction of Southeast Service Center, GFS L-0029-01-3 - **DISTRICT I – CASTILLO** – was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, seconded by Council Member Tatro, and was tagged by Council Member Sanchez. Council Member Castillo absent.

### **ACCEPT WORK**

12. ORDINANCE appropriating \$684,167.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund as additional funding for contract with **WM. H. GRAY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC** for construction of proposed Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation in Northside Phase II approved by Ordinance No. 98-174 - **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY; H - VASQUEZ and I – CASTILLO** – was presented, and was tagged by Council Members Keller and Sanchez. Council Member Castillo absent.

Council Member Keller stated that Item 12 was a huge amount of money and his office had called the contact person three times and was not able to get information; that he did not like tagging and thought it could have been rectified with a couple of meetings, but that much money needed more justification; that in a nutshell he would again say that this was faulty design and documents and would like a week to decide that; that he did not think the contractor was too much to blame, but the construction manager and the person who designed the plans would serve this issue greatly if they got with him as soon as possible. Mayor Brown stated that he would have Mr. King get with him to answer his questions.

12a. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of Change Order No. 5 in the amount of \$877,971.33, final contract amount of \$5,331,782.07 and acceptance of work on contract with **WM. H. GRAY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC** for proposed Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation in Northside Phase II, GFS R-1039-20-3 (4260-21) 20.46% over the original contract amount - Enterprise Fund - **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY; H - VASQUEZ and I –**

**CASTILLO** – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, seconded by Council Member Tatro, and was tagged by Council Member Keller.

13. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$191,044.48 and acceptance of work on contract with **PHOCO, INC d/b/a TELEPHONE CO. OF HOUSTON** for construction of 1998 Major Thoroughfare Sidewalk Project 27-3, GFS N-0610A-27-3 (27-3) - 23.57% under the original contract amount - Street, Bridge & Traffic Control Fund - **DISTRICTS A - TATRO; B - GALLOWAY and H – VASQUEZ** - was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, and seconded by Council Member Robinson. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0274 ADOPTED.

### **PROPERTY**

14. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for condemnation of Parcel A98-54, located at 2400 Almeda-Genoa Road, owned by United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston, a Texas non-profit corporation, Ira Mitzner, President, for the **ALMEDA-GENOA ROAD WIDENING PROJECT from Almeda Road to State Highway 288**, CIP N-0493-01-1 **DISTRICT D – BONEY** – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, seconded by Council Member Robinson, and was tagged by Council Members Todd and Robinson.

Council Member Todd stated that he would request a briefing on the item; and Mayor Brown stated that someone would brief each of them.

### **PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS**

#### **LOW BIDS**

22. **RMB CONTRACTOR SUPPLY, INC - \$97,500.00, PMI, PHOENIX METALLURGICAL, INC \$49,478.00 and SHEPLER'S - \$31,260.00** for Concrete Saw Blades for Aviation and Public Works Departments - \$178,238.00 - Enterprise Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, and seconded by Council Member Tatro.

Council Member Castillo stated that he noticed there was a series of 36 month contracts and that they did so to stabilize prices, etc., and they were to be notified if the price went down for a better pricing, but the problem was he had not been able to determine a mechanism for them to know if the price went down and he would like to know if that could be looked into, otherwise they would not know when the price went down; and Mayor Brown stated that Mr. Haines would follow-up and make sure something was in place.

A vote was called on Item 22. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0275 ADOPTED

25. **GALAXY OFFICE EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES** for Continuous Forms for Various Departments \$912,579.33 - General and Enterprise Funds – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, and seconded by Council Member Castillo.

Council Member Robinson voting no. Balance voting aye. MOTION 2000-0276 ADOPTED.

### OTHER

27. ORDINANCE de-appropriating \$270,000.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund from Contract No. C37116 between the City of Houston and **METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF HARRIS COUNTY** (approved by Ordinance No. 96-1251; and appropriating \$270,000.00 out the said fund for the purchase of Controller Cabinets for the Public Works & Engineering Department – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-134 ADOPTED.
- 27a. **U. S. TRAFFIC CORP dba IDC** - \$1,517,480.82 and **TRAFFIC ENGINEERING & CONTROLS** \$521,637.00 for Controller Cabinets for Department of Public Works & Engineering - METRO and Street & Bridge Consolidated Funds – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, and seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0277 ADOPTED.
28. ORDINANCE de-appropriating \$200,000.00 out of Street and Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund from Contract No. C37116 between the City of Houston and **METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF HARRIS COUNTY** (approved by Ordinance No. 96-1251) appropriating \$200,000.00 out of said fund for the purchase of Steel Traffic Signal Poles – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-135 ADOPTED.
- 28a. **STRUCTURAL AND STEEL PRODUCTS, INC** - \$1,723,521.00 and **TRANSAMERICAN POWER PRODUCTS, INC** - \$472,782.00 for Steel Traffic Signal Poles for Department of Public Works & Engineering - METRO and Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, and seconded by Council Member Boney. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0278 ADOPTED.
29. **DEALER'S ELECTRIC SUPPLY** - \$28,314.10, **GLOBE ELECTRIC CO., INC** - \$20,137.85 and **TURTLE & HUGHES, INC** - \$97,054.41 for High Abuse Lighting for Various Departments General and Enterprise Funds – was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Vasquez. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0279 ADOPTED.
30. **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL** for Purchase of Ten Vans and Three Medium-Duty Utility Vehicles through the Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing for Various Departments - New and Replacement - \$260,137.30 - Enterprise, Equipment Acquisition Consolidated and Street & Drainage Maintenance Funds – was presented, moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0280 ADOPTED.

### RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

34. ORDINANCE amending **CHAPTER 47 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to Utility System Extensions for Water and Wastewater Mains; containing other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; containing a repealer; providing for severability – was presented, and was tagged by Council Member Tatro.
35. ORDINANCE amending **CHAPTER 12 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to an increase in Rental Occupancy Charges for certain Convention and Entertainment Facilities Department Facilities; containing other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; providing for severability - **DISTRICT I – CASTILLO** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-136 ADOPTED.
36. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing amendment No. 1 to a lease agreement for certain premises at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston between the City of Houston and **ATLAS PROCESSING COMPANY** - Revenue - **DISTRICT B – GALLOWAY** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-137 ADOPTED.
37. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing amendment No. 1 to a lease agreement for certain premises at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston between the City of Houston and **BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS COMPANY** - Revenue - **DISTRICT B – GALLOWAY** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-138 ADOPTED.
39. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing a lease agreement between **LEON AND PAULA GOLDSTEIN**, as landlord, and the City of Houston, Texas, as tenant, for Office/Warehouse space at 1100 Elder Street, Houston, Texas, for use by the Houston Fire Department - **DISTRICT H – VASQUEZ** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-139 ADOPTED.
41. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing an agreement between the City of Houston and **SAINT GEORGE PLACE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**, a Texas Not-for-profit Corporation, for the purpose of acquiring right-of-way and designing and constructing street improvements within Reinvestment Zone Number One, City of Houston, Texas - **DISTRICT C – GOLDBERG** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-140 ADOPTED.
43. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **HOUSTON AREA URBAN LEAGUE, INC** to provide \$183,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant Funds for the Administration of the “Home of Your Own Homeownership Program” for qualified disabled, low and moderate income homebuyers - was presented, and was tagged by Council Member Todd.
44. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 95-756 to increase the maximum contract amount and approving and authorizing first amendment to contract between the City of Houston and **LANE EQUIPMENT COMPANY** (approved by Ordinance No. 95-756) for Ice Machine Rental Services for Various Departments - \$192,815.66 -

General and Enterprise Funds – was presented, and was tagged by Council Member Todd.

45. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 98-528 to increase the maximum contract amount for Solid Waste Disposal Services under contract with **WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC (formerly USA Waste of Texas Landfills, Inc)** approved by Ordinance No. 98-528 - \$3,000,000.00 - General Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-141 ADOPTED.
47. ORDINANCE appropriating \$3,678,010.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund, awarding a construction contract to **KINSEL INDUSTRIES, INC** and **PM CONSTRUCTION & REHAB, L.P.**, a joint venture, on low bid of \$3,291,000.00 and approving and authorizing professional services contract for engineering testing services with **PARADIGM CONSULTANTS, INC** in the amount of \$25,000.00 for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation by Sliplining and Pipe Bursting Methods, GFS R-0266-87-3 (4257-20); providing funding for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water and Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-142 ADOPTED.
48. ORDINANCE appropriating \$3,678,010.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund, awarding a construction contract to **KINSEL INDUSTRIES, INC** and **PM CONSTRUCTION & REHAB, L.P.**, a joint venture, on low bid of \$3,291,000.00 and approving and authorizing professional services contract for engineering testing services with **TERRA-MAR, INC** in the amount of \$25,000.00 for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation by Sliplining and Pipe Bursting Methods, GFS R-0266-88-3 (4257-21); providing funding for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water and Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-143 ADOPTED.

**The Non Consent Agenda (Items 51 through 55) were considered as follows:**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

51. RECEIVE nominations for Positions A through I to the Community Educational Outreach Panel of the **ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, for terms to expire December 31, 2001 – was before Council.

Council Member Tatro nominated Ms. Frances Goodman for Position A of the Educational Outreach Panel. Council Member Sanchez moved to close nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Keller. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0281 ADOPTED.

Council Member Ellis nominated Mr. Joseph Feducci for Position F of the Educational Outreach Panel. Council Member Sanchez moved to close nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0282 ADOPTED.

Council Member Keller nominated Ms. Elizabeth Moore Arnold for Position G of the Educational Outreach Panel. Council Member Sanchez moved to close nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0283 ADOPTED.

Council Member Sanchez moved to postpone nominations for Positions B, C, D, E, H and I for one week, and was seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0284 ADOPTED.

Council Member Bell stated he would like to know if the Administration had given any thought to reviewing committees to see if there was still a vital need for some; and Mayor Brown stated that nothing had been done on that order, but he would do so. Council Member Bell stated that from time to time there did not seem to be a great deal of interest and it would be a good time to do so.

52. MOTION to set a date not less than seven (7) days from February 23, 2000 to receive nominations for Positions 1 and 2, and Alternate Positions 1 and 2 of the **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**, the one year terms to expire December 31, 2000 – was presented and Council Member Robinson moved to set next Wednesday to receive nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Vasquez. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0285 ADOPTED.

53. RECEIVE nominations for Positions 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 of the **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, terms to expire three years from date of appointment – was before Council.

Council Member Boney nominated Mr. Brian Smith for Position 2 of the Small Business Development Corporation Board of Directors. Council Member Boney moved to close nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0286 ADOPTED.

Council Member Boney nominated Mr. Howard Jefferson for Position 4 of the Small Business Development Corporation Board of Directors. Council Member Boney moved to close nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0287 ADOPTED.

Council Member Vasquez nominated Ms. Gracie Saenz for Position 6 of the Small Business Development Corporation Board of Directors. Council Member Sanchez moved to close nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Robinson. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0288 ADOPTED.

Council Member Ellis nominated Mr. Pete Patterson for Position 8 of the Small Business Development Corporation Board of Directors. Council Members Sanchez moved to close nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0289 ADOPTED.

Council Member Robinson moved to postpone nomination for Position 10 for one week, and was seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0290 ADOPTED.



Council Member Parker nominated Mr. Ed Gonzales for Position 12 of the Small Business Development Corporation Board of Directors. Council Members Sanchez moved to close nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Vasquez. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0291 ADOPTED.

54. MOTION to set a date not less than seven (7) days from February 23, 2000 to receive nominations for **REINVESTMENT ZONE #1**, Position 5 which is vacant, for a term to expire December 31, 2000 and for Positions 6, 8 and 9, for terms to expire December 31, 2001 – was presented and Council Member Sanchez moved to set next Wednesday to receive nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0292 ADOPTED.

### **PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS**

55. RECOMMENDATION from Finance & Administration Department to make the following awards for Dry Animal Feed for Various Departments - General Fund:
- ALIEF FEED** - \$106,039.39
  - PEARLAND FEED** - \$61,422.30
  - HILL'S PET NUTRITION (Bid No. 2)** - \$99,946.95
  - SOUTHWEST HAY & FEED** - \$90,794.00
  - MACI FEED** - \$451,523.24
- COUNCIL DRAW LOTS**  
**LINE ITEMS 21, 25, 30 and 39** due to receiving identical bids from **SOUTHWEST HAY & FEED** and **MACI FEED** in the amount of \$29,738.00 – was before Council and Council Member Keller drew **MACI FEED** as the successful bidder.

Council Member Sanchez moved that the recommendation be adopted and awarded as drawn, and was seconded by Council Member Boney. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0293 ADOPTED.

### **MATTERS HELD** - NUMBERS 56 through 60

56. ORDINANCE amending Exhibit "A" of City of Houston Ordinance No. 99-1385 by deleting Four (4) Junior Fire Alarm Dispatcher positions and Two (2) Fire Alarm Dispatcher positions; substituting the amended exhibit as part of the current Fire Department Classified Personnel Ordinance providing for severability – **(This was Item 12 on Agenda of February 16, 2000, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS TODD, SANCHEZ, CASTILLO, BELL, VASQUEZ, GALLOWAY and KELLER)** – was presented.

Council Member Goldberg moved to amend the Ordinance by the deletion Two (2) Fire Alarm Dispatcher positions, and was seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0294 ADOPTED.

A vote was called on Item 56 as amended. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2000-144 ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

57. ORDINANCE relating to the issuance and sale of City of Houston, Texas, Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2000A for the purpose of the payment of contractual obligations to be incurred in the construction of Public Improvements in Reinvestment Zone No. 1, City of Houston, Texas; including authorizing publication of notice of intent to issue such certificates, authorizing the Finance Working Group to proceed with the issuance of such certificates, approving matters incidental to the issuance - **DISTRICT C – GOLDBERG – (This was Item 13 on Agenda of February 16, 2000, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS ELLIS and BELL)** – was presented. Council Member Keller voting no. Balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2000-145 ADOPTED.
58. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing a legal services contract between the City of Houston and **MAYOR DAY CALDWELL & KEETON, L.L.P.** for representation of the City before the State of Texas Public Utilities Commission; setting a maximum contract - \$70,000.00 - General Fund – **(This was Item 18 on Agenda of February 16, 2000, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TATRO)** – was presented.

Council Member Tatro stated that in July 1998 Council passed a new telecom ordinance which in his opinion moved from one philosophy to another, from a charge to telecom companies for maintenance of right-of-way to the approach of revenue generation, part of the concern on that was telecom franchise agreements and the municipal franchise fees charged to the telecom providers were passed through to the consumer; that what happened last Thursday by the PUC hinged around House Bill 1777 which passed in the last legislature and the PUC believed their escalation would take precedent over Houston's escalation for the future and that was the concern expressed by the Administration; that in about a week on March 1, 2000, the PUC would release its fees and then they would know exactly what their escalation fee would be and it would most likely be an increase; that the heart of the matter was House Bill 1777 and one of his major concerns with the current revenue projections as they moved into the next budget cycle was what would the future telecom revenues be expected to be; that they would have to file suit in Travis County State Court to try and override the PUC's ruling and they may do that, but until the numbers were run they would not know if it was economically advantageous; and he thought with the matter being unresolved it would behoove them to put into the budget cycle the lower of the two numbers; and that he would recommend that after March 1, they get the numbers and calculate and take the lesser of the two revenue figures and utilize that as the budgeted number in municipal franchise revenues during the FY 2001 cycle. Council Members Goldberg, Todd and Castillo absent.

Council Member Robinson stated that he would like to try and get clarification, that Council Member Tatro talked about the PUC's escalation still coming in under the city revenue; and upon questions, Ms. Kathy Mosley, Finance and Administration, stated that the best estimate at this time was \$17,000,000; that with some of the unpredictability of PUC staff she could not guarantee that it would not be less or more, but they did expect it to be at least \$17,000,000 a year. Council Member Robinson stated that last week his comments were not at the substance of hiring the law firm but the adequacy of those who worked with the city in terms of the lobby side; that he wanted to say on the record he thought this should be passed this week and then go back and ask for more money; that he understood the rule had been implemented and it was now a matter to be litigated; that for the two years he had been on Council he harped on the expenditure

side and his take on the budget was that they were pretty much in balance if they came across conservative projections; and he was going to vote on this, but was seriously asking the Administration to consider coming back next week asking for more money. Council Member Goldberg absent.

Council Member Sanchez stated that in looking for areas to cut and save money he would go back to Items 11 and 12, if those were totaled it would be \$176,000 and totaling the previous ones it would be well over millions of dollars and he would implore the Public Works and Engineering Department to be very circumspect about the taxpayers money and avoid change orders like that. Council Member Goldberg absent.

Council Member Sanchez yielded to Council Member Tatro who stated that he had the opportunity to speak with a PUC commissioner and thought what was important was the steps they needed to approach and the analytical way they looked at them because there may be a revenue figure at risk, but there was also a political side as to whether it was worth pursuing. Council Member Parker absent.

Council Member Boney stated that a comment was made by Council Member Tatro regarding raising telephone taxes and that was not his understanding and he would like Mr. Haines to speak to that; and Mr. Haines stated that was correct, it was franchise fees for the city right-of-way. Council Member Boney stated that he wanted to be sure the record was straight. Council Member Parker absent.

Council Member Sanchez stated that to clarify did Council not raise the fee on telephones, on the city franchise fee; and Mr. Haines stated that was correct, the method was changed about a year ago. Council Member Parker absent.

A vote was called on Item 58. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Parker absent. ORDINANCE 2000-146 ADOPTED.

Council Member Boney introduced a group of students with Willowridge High School and asked them to stand to be recognized. Council Members Goldberg and Parker absent.

Council Member Boney moved to suspend the rules to hear from Mr. Larry Blackman, and was seconded by Council Member Tatro. Council Member Goldberg absent. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0295 ADOPTED.

Mr. Blackman stated that the students of the Government and Economic Class came every year to observe Council; that the students were newly registered voters and most were in Council Member Boney's district.

Mayor Brown stated that they were delighted the students were interested in their city government, encouraged them to do whatever they wanted by studying hard; and welcomed them and thanked them for coming to City Hall. Council Member Vasquez absent.

59. RECEIVE nominations for Position 14 of the **CITY HALL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**, for terms to expire December 31, 2001 – (This was Item 26 on

**Agenda of February 16, 2000, POSTPONED BY MOTION #2000-221)** – was before Council.

Council Member Parker moved to postpone Item 59 for one week, and was seconded by Council Member Quan. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Vasquez absent. MOTION 2000-0296 ADOPTED.

60. RECEIVE nominations for Positions B and D of the **HOUSTON CLEAN CITY COMMISSION**, the one year terms to expire February 1, 2001 – **(This was Item 28 on Agenda of February 16, 2000, POSTPONED BY MOTION #2000-232)** was before Council.

Council Member Galloway nominated Mr. Eric Boutte for Position B of the Houston Clean City Commission. Council Member Sanchez moved to close nominations, and was seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Vasquez absent. MOTION 2000-0297 ADOPTED.

Council Member Boney moved to postpone nomination of Position D of the Houston Clean City Commission for one week, and was seconded by Council Member Sanchez. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0298 ADOPTED.

**Item received during the meeting was considered as follows:**

31. RESOLUTION approving the creation of the Southwest Houston Redevelopment Authority; approving the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws thereof; confirming the appointment of the Initial Directors and Chairperson - **DISTRICT F – ELLIS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. RESOLUTION 2000-8 ADOPTED.

Council Member Sanchez stated that he would release his tag on Item 6, but in regards to saving the city money he understood wrong numbers were provided to the payroll consultant which resulted in this; and upon questions, Mr. Hall stated that he was correct and it was costing \$6,000 to go back and correct. Council Member Sanchez stated that in trying to find ways to save the city money today there were three examples in which lots of money could have been saved for the taxpayers, but he would remove his tag.

6. RECOMMENDATION from the City Attorney to **AMEND MOTION #99-1949, passed 11/9/99**, to increase spending by \$5,984.00, from \$15,000.00 to \$20,984.00, for purchase of additional payroll services from Payroll Partners, in connection with a lawsuit styled Juan Vela et al v. City of Houston now pending in Cause No. H-97-3741 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas was again presented – and was moved by Council Member Boney, and seconded by Council Member Castillo and again presented. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0299 ADOPTED.

**MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS -**

Council Member Tatro stated that on January 10 he had forwarded a letter to the Mayor's Office requesting his assistance for the Spring Branch community on an issue of a grease and grit facility; that the area was heavily residential and he had spoken with the TNRCC, state and local officials and he appreciated all getting back to him in a timely manner; that the neighborhood was concerned about the odor and leaks and they believed the facility was much more suited to a commercial area as opposed to a mix use area even though it was outside the distance marker of the TNRCC; that those he had contacted had written letters in support of the neighborhood, but to date still nothing had been received from the Mayor's Office supporting them; that he and those in Spring Branch would appreciate his support in the matter. Mayor Brown stated that the Health Department did respond to him and members of his staff had gone out to meet with the civic association president and did express his concern; that they had learned the vendor had been evicted out of Pearland and in his research it was not neighborhood friendly and he was in the process of preparing a letter. Council Member Robinson absent.

Council Member Vasquez stated that last night District H held their CIP Meeting and there were about 130 in attendance; that he wanted to thank Ms. Gubbin, Jerry King and Chief Tyra for their contributions to a very successful CIP meeting. Mayor Brown stated that he understood most CIP Meetings had gone very well, all the feedback he had received was very positive.

Council Member Keller stated that his CIP Meeting was tomorrow, February 24 at Frostwood Elementary and he invited all to attend and did hope his would be as successful as the others.

Council Member Keller stated that he was excited to accept the role Council Member Robinson had placed on him as far as taking a leadership role on the professional services in the TTI Committee and he looked forward to working closely over the next couple of weeks because they would be preparing a briefing to the committee with Public Works on formulation of the fee structures.

Council Member Keller stated that he had found the higher up someone was the faster they returned a phone call and he had thought it would be the opposite, but the Mayor, Mr. Haines, Mr. Tollett, Mr. King, etc., return calls almost instantaneously yet sometimes he went three or four days when it was someone down below them to get a call returned; that it was irritating and it agitated the situation and he would hope everyone would make a special effort to return phone calls; and Mayor Brown stated that if he had problems he would suggest that he call that director and it would take care of it.

Council Member Parker stated that on Item 41 one of the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones and Council agreed to a condemnation procedure; that they regularly had speakers in the public session who said Council created such zones so they could concede their condemnation power to them, but she wanted to remind everyone Council was jealous of that power and they had never conceded it to the zones but did sometimes use it on their behalf.

Council Member Parker stated that Council had approved another redevelopment authority for a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone today and she would like someone in Planning to let her know how many of the existing TIRZs had now had their related

redevelopment authorities approved and how many more they would be doing; and Mayor Brown stated that someone in Planning would get the information for her.

Council Member Parker stated that there was a memorial service planned for today for convenience store violence victims at Tranquility Park which started at noon and she would like Council Members to join her there; and Mayor Brown stated that he would urge all to join the community in recognition of citizens who had unnecessarily lost their lives by senseless killings.

Council Member Parker stated that Council did not always maintain a perfect decorum in the Chamber, but it was not helped by the use of cellular phones in the Chamber and she would request cellular phones be banned or at least post outside the Chamber that phones be turned off before entering; and Mayor Brown stated that they would try and figure out a diplomatic way to address that.

Council Member Castillo stated that Census Day was fast approaching and people would be receiving an advanced letter, but he wanted to thank the media who had been providing public service announcements, it was hundreds of thousands of dollars of airtime; and displayed a video being shown on Channel 45, KXLN. Council Member Castillo stated that a copy of the advanced letter was being passed to Council Members and it was in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Philippine; that it also gave information where people could apply for jobs because many were needed; and Saturday they had a very successful summit with 120 taking the test and it was very successful and he thanked all concerned.

Council Member Boney stated that the Westheimer Street Festival had discussed moving to another site and the proposed site they recommended was near a church and he did not think that would be a good site either; that possibly they could contact the Parks Department and look at using Buffalo Bayou where they hold the Fourth of July celebration; and Mayor Brown stated that they were working with them.

Council Member Bell stated that he wanted to commend the Zoological Society for the Master Plan they brought fourth; that representatives had met with most Council Members and he thought everyone would be filled with the same sense of excitement once they saw it, they had set the bar rather high for themselves as far as money to be raised, but they did have a proven track record on raising funds and hopefully they would be able to do so again; that if their plan was fulfilled then over time the zoo could become one of the great tourist attractions and really lend to the quality of life in Houston.

Council Member Bell stated that along that same line he wanted to again bring up and ask where they were in terms of considering bringing forth some kind of bond issue to improve parks and libraries because he felt those were the type of quality of life projects that citizens would truly get excited about; and he hoped the Administration would be moving forward in the near future and announcing some plan.

Council Member Bell stated that he would be remiss if he did not say something about the Firefighters Memorial Service held last Friday, it was incredibly moving and he wanted to commend the Houston Fire Department and the Firefighters Union; that it was



incredibly moving and emotional and he could not think of any better way to say goodbye to two fallen heroes.

Mayor Brown stated that he would have Mr. Haines get with him and brief him on the parks and library bond issue.

Council Member Ellis stated that like Council Member Bell he was thoroughly moved Friday morning at the memorial service for the two fallen firefighters; and as Council Member Parker brought up today was a memorial service for convenience store clerks who had been murdered in the last weeks; that his office felt it was necessary to step-up some type of program to train clerks on dealing with situations and Capt. Bullock started a program where he wanted any clerks who wanted to go through a safety training program and he would urge all to take the training and commend the Houston Police Department for their efforts in the training and in the apprehension of those who had done the crimes.

Council Member Ellis stated that his CIP Meeting for District F would be February 28 at 7:00 p.m., at Sharpstown Recreation Center, 6600 Harbortown and he would urge all to come out; that he also wanted to invite all At-Large Council Members to attend also.

Council Member Goldberg stated that he was always looking for ways to increase revenue and cut taxes while not cutting services and one of his constituents responded with a little used ordinance being a part of Section 125 of the Code of Ordinances; that many apartments and businesses in his district had an inordinate amount of police calls and calls on other city services and the ordinance allowed the city to be reimbursed from the apartment complexes or businesses; that he briefly spoke to Mr. Hall and Mr. Bibler and was referred to Ms. McAbee and he wanted to check on what type of money was coming in from apartments and businesses. Council Member Castillo absent.

Council Member Todd stated that he wanted to thank Council Members for support of the Kingwood speakers yesterday; that he had a call in to Houston Cellular on the issue and if they had anything substantive to add he would send a memo to Council Members; that he was going to ask for a copy of the pleadings on the case so they could see what the argument was; that if technology was already installed on the towers and they were simply refusing to turn it on, unless they had a really good reason, he thought the public was entitled to it. Council Member Castillo absent.

Council Member Todd stated that on a similar issue, but on a lighter note he had read in the Food Section of [the Houston Chronicle](#) that a constituent in Kingwood was up for an award in the Pillsbury Bake-Off; that her mother had won second prize in 1966 and it was a serious competition; that since it was to late for a proclamation he would call her, but depending on the outcome maybe a proclamation could be done later; that Ms. Patricia Gullo was the winner and had been trying to get her mother Ms. Ella Rita Helfrich back into the competition so it was a family staying and working together Council Member Castillo absent.

Council Member Todd stated that he would echo what Council Member Castillo had said about the Westheimer Street Festival, he had received a phone call from a parishioner of the church saying the date would coincide with a processional and that

the priests and bishops would have to go down the street dodging people at the festival and that did not seem to be a particularly harmonious mix. Council Member Castillo absent.

Council Member Todd stated that an item on the Agenda pertained to a condemnation of Synagogue property for a road and he could not remember Council being asked to take church property without their consent; that serious implications related to that and it surprised him they did not receive more backup; that he would like a briefing and would like to know from Public Works if there was any history of every doing such before for such a reason. Council Members Vasquez and Castillo absent.

Council Member Todd stated that on the Strategic Transportation Plan presented there was talk about the Gulf Freeway and the ballpark and he was glad they were discussing having an off ramp as it was definitely needed, but about a year ago he had brought up that the HOV lanes on the Gulf Freeway were different than other freeways as you had to exit the freeway to get off and exit the freeway to get on and on the Katy Freeway you could get on and off; that he brought it up to METRO about shutting the HOV lanes down during certain times of the year on the gulf Freeway and they said it was because of low rider ship, but if they did not make it so hard to get off and on more would ride and then METRO's response was it was a part of the plan to get people onto mass transit and out of their cars; and he would urge METRO and anyone in the city who recognized the importance to urge METRO to open up the lanes. Council Members Keller, Vasquez and Castillo absent.

Council Member Robinson stated that the March meeting of the Transportation Technology Infrastructure Committee had been changed to Wednesday, March 29, 2000, at 2:00 p.m. Council Members Keller, Vasquez and Castillo absent.

Council Member Robinson stated that regarding Council Member Bell's discussion of parks and library bonds he hoped as a part of the joint Fiscal Affairs Technology Transportation Committee Meetings during discussion of CIPs that would be one of the issues addressed. Council Members Keller, Vasquez and Castillo absent.

Council Member Robinson stated that he wanted to thank the Administration as Mr. Haines, Mr. Lewis and Ms. Culbreth had been working on trying to find additional funds relative to water, sewer and other projects in that area and he believed all would agree that arenas had support, but the quality of life issues such as parks, library, drainage and such which he knew was high on the Mayor's priority were important and he was excited to know there may be additional funds. Council Members Keller, Vasquez and Castillo absent.

Council Member Robinson stated that he also wanted to thank the Administration for looking into additional parking spaces downtown as parking was a major issue. Council Members Keller, Vasquez and Castillo absent.

Council Member Robinson stated that last night he went to a meeting of the North Harris County Regional Water Authority and what was interesting was the newly elected board of directors starting throwing around numbers as to what they thought they would have to charge as a pumping fee to users in the area, around \$1.60, and through conversations he thought the city could possibly sell water for less; that he knew the

Mayor had the regional Water Authority looking into the issue, but there were a couple of things coming down the line that he thought they had to give consideration to on how fast they moved the process along; that they had an obligation to submit a ground water reduction plan to the Subsidence District by summer of 2002 and as he understood it you had to have a preliminary engineering plan along with your ground water reduction plan and the engineering community said it was about a year or more endeavor and if that was the case he thought they needed to decide if there was a price they wanted to sell treated water for, put it on the table and give everyone a deadline that if they wanted to be a part of the city's ground water reduction plan they had to sign some kind of agreement to buy in the out years and if not at least they had done all they could and could move on with their plan; and he felt they needed real technical assistance and he wanted to make clear that he thought they should build a plant and transmission lines and if they had the customer base to do it expand out beyond the city into all users across Harris County. Council Members Todd, Vasquez and Bell absent.

Council Member Quan stated tht he wanted to echo his support for the memorial service today; that he applauded Council Member Ellis' efforts as far as the safety training and he felt that they should also look into a better cultural understanding as he thought sometimes the episodes occurred because of a lack of communication between the merchants and those they serviced. Council Members Todd, Vasquez and Bell absent.

Council Member Quan stated that he wanted to congratulate Council Member Castillo on his efforts with the Census; that there would be a meeting between the Census Bureau and the immigration Bar to try and alleviate fears in the immigrant communities as to their participation in the process. Council Members Todd, Vasquez and Bell absent.

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 10:50 a.m. upon MOTION by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Todd, Vasquez and Bell absent. MOTION ADOPTED. COUNCIL ADJOURNED.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY.

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

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Anna Russell, City Secretary