

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Wednesday July 2, 2003

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 2, 2003, with Mayor Lee P. Brown presiding and with Council Members Bruce Tatro, Mark Goldberg, Ada Edwards, Addie Wiseman, Mark Ellis, Bert Keller, Gabriel Vasquez, Carol Alvarado, Annise Parker, Shelly Sekula-Gibbs, M.D., Michael Berry and Carroll Robinson; Mr. Al Haines, Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office; Mr. Anthony Hall, City Attorney, Mr. Paul Bibler, Assistant City Attorney; Mr. Richard Cantu, Director, Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office; and Ms. Martha Stein, Agenda Director present. Council Member Carol M. Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Gordon Quan absent on personal business.

At 8:25 a.m. the City Secretary read the descriptions or captions of items on the Agenda.

At 9:12 Mayor Brown called the meeting to order and Council Member Keller invited Ms. Sandra Massey Hines to lead everyone in prayer and Council Member Keller lead everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Brown requested the City Secretary to call the roll. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business.

Council Members Keller and Vasquez moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION ADOPTED.

MAYOR'S REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 30

MISCELLANEOUS - NUMBER 1

1. CONFIRMATION of the appointment of **MS. NORMA VELAZQUEZ HARRIS** to Position 6 of the **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, for a three year term from date of appointment – was presented, moved by Council Member Wiseman, seconded by Council Member Vasquez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0865 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES

24. ORDINANCE appropriating \$315,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing contract between the City and **CAMP DRESSER & MCKEE, INC** for Construction Management and Inspection Services for the 69th Street Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, CIP R-0509-07-3 (4842) - **DISTRICT I- ALVARADO** – had been pulled from the Agenda by the Administration, and was not considered.
26. ORDINANCE appropriating \$112,987.83 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and \$115,589.85 out of Homeless and Housing Consolidated Bond Fund, and approving and authorizing Developer Participation contract between the City of Houston and **UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT, INC** for Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Lines to serve Section Two of the Northborough Village Subdivision, CIP S-0800-91-03 and R-0800-91-03 - **DISTRICT B - GALLOWAY** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0630 ADOPTED.

27. ORDINANCE appropriating \$116,625.17 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and \$135,000.00 out of Homeless and Housing Consolidated Bond Fund, and approving and authorizing Developer Participation contract between the City of Houston and **UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT, INC** for Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Lines to serve Section Three of the Northborough Village Subdivision, CIP S-0800-92-03 and R-0800-92-03 - **DISTRICT B - GALLOWAY** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0631 ADOPTED.
28. ORDINANCE appropriating \$248,570.31 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and \$240,000.00 out of Homeless and Housing Consolidated Bond Fund, and approving and authorizing Developer Participation contract between the City of Houston and **REGENTS PARK ASSOCIATES, LTD.**, for Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Lines to serve the Regents Village Subdivision, CIP S-0800-93-03 and R-0800-93-03 **DISTRICT F - ELLIS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0632 ADOPTED.
29. ORDINANCE appropriating \$377,014.88 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and \$120,000.00 out of Homeless and Housing Consolidated Bond Fund and approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **7168 STONE BROOK I, LTD.** for Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Lines to serve the Northwest Place Estates Subdivision, CIP S-0800-94-03 and R-0800-94-03 - **DISTRICT A - TATRO** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0633 ADOPTED.

MISCELLANEOUS

2. RECOMMENDATION from Fire Chief to approve the sale of Decommissioned Firefighting Equipment to “Sister City” Tampico, Mexico – was presented, moved by Council Member Sekula-Gibbs, seconded by Council Member Ellis. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0866 ADOPTED.
3. RECOMMENDATION from Fire Chief for authority to sell Decommissioned Equipment and Uniform items for surplus and salvage to the Houston Fire Museum – was presented, moved by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Vasquez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0867 ADOPTED.
4. RECOMMENDATION from Director Office of Public Safety and Drug Policy for approval of Change Order No. 1 on contract with **PRC PUBLIC SECTOR, INC** for additional scope related to Implementation of Houston Emergency Center Consolidated Dispatching System – was presented, moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Vasquez, and tagged by Council Members Tatro and Parker.

DAMAGES - NUMBER 5

5. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney for settlement of lawsuit titled **JOHNNY CAPPS v. City of Houston**; in the 270th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas; Cause No. 2002-24757 \$25,000.00 - Property and Casualty Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, seconded by Council Member Sekula-Gibbs. All voting aye. Nays

none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0868 ADOPTED.

ACCEPT WORK - NUMBERS 6 and 7

6. RECOMMENDATION from Director Houston Airport System for approval of final contract amount of \$3,676,588.54 and acceptance of work on contract with **GARVER CONSTRUCTION, LTD** for Will Clayton Parkway/Lee Road Improvements at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston Project No. 560A, CIP A-0116 - 04.15% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICT B - GALLOWAY** – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, seconded by Council Member Tatro.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that she wanted to compliment the firm, Garver, for coming in under bid by 4% and thought it was worthy of compliments and encouragement for others to follow.

A vote was called on Item No. 6. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0869 ADOPTED.

7. RECOMMENDATION from Director Houston Airport System for approval of final contract amount of \$7,751,855.72 and acceptance of work on contract with **KINSEL INDUSTRIES, INC** for Terminal Area Road Modifications at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston Project No. 533A, CIP A0351 - 02.22% over the original contract amount - **DISTRICT B - GALLOWAY** – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0870 ADOPTED.

PROPERTY - NUMBER 8

8. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney to deposit the amount of the Award of Special Commissioners into the Registry of the Court, pay all costs of Court and not file any objections to the Award in connection with eminent domain proceedings styled City of Houston v. Truong X. Hoang and Thang X. Cao, et al., Cause No. 782,064; for the **LEY ROAD PAVING PROJECT**, CIP/GFS N-0587B-01-1 - \$205,734.00 - **DISTRICT B - GALLOWAY** – was presented, moved by Council Member Keller, seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0871 ADOPTED.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS - NUMBER 9

9. DECLARE **P.E.S. VENTURES, INC dba FORT BEND MECHANICAL** non-responsible for two years – was presented, moved by Council Member Keller, seconded by Council Member Sekula-Gibbs. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0872 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 10 through 30

10. ORDINANCE **AMENDING THE CITY OF HOUSTON CONSTRUCTION CODE** and the **CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to Fees – was presented.

The City Secretary stated that Ms. Stein had advised her that there was a public speaker on Agenda Item No. 10 and that they should hold Item No. 10 until after the agenda, that he was listed under the 2 minute speakers rather than agenda so she would just hold it aside.

11. ORDINANCE relating to the use of certain Extended Body Limousines that were in service prior to the adoption of recent Limousine Regulations and Ordinances – was presented.

Council Member Ellis moved to postpone Item No. 11 until the end of the agenda, seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0873 ADOPTED.

12. ORDINANCE authorizing the reallocation of the amounts which may be issued for authorized purposes of the City of Houston, Texas, General Obligation Commercial Paper Notes, Series D – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0634 ADOPTED.

13. ORDINANCE suspending the effective date of revised rate schedules filed by Centerpoint Energy Entex for all customers within the City of Houston, Texas – was presented.

Council Member Ellis stated that in his notes it said that they were going to approve the first \$25,000 for a purchase order to hire a consultant and that the maximum amount was going to be \$125,000 and Mayor Brown stated that was correct, and Council Member Ellis asked if it was going to come back to Council for approval, and Mayor Brown stated that the second amount would come back to Council and asked Mr. Haines to explain it and Mr. Haines stated that they needed to move forward so that they could get it suspended and begin the due diligence process and get the consultant on board, that it would be a reimbursement from Entex in this case, but yes they would come back to Council, that the plan was that they had to move forward because of the timelines that were associated with it, and Council Member Ellis stated that he just did not want to get in the habit of the City Council approving contracts that were larger of \$25,000 and understood about the time constraints, and Mayor Brown stated that it would come back.

A vote was called on Item No. 13. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0635 ADOPTED.

14. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing lease agreement between the **WAYSIDE BUSINESS CENTER, LTD., as landlord**, and the City of Houston, Texas, as tenant, for space at 4300 S. Wayside for use by the Public Works & Engineering Department - **DISTRICT I – ALVARADO** – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Ellis.

15. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the submittal of an application to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Greater Houston Environmental Public Health Tracking Network; declaring the City's eligibility for such application; authorizing the Director of the Health and Human Services Department to act as the City's representative in the application process; authorizing the Director of Health and Human Services Department to accept any monies, if awarded, and to apply for and accept all subsequent awards, if any, pertaining to the application; authorizing one (1) new staff position – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0636 ADOPTED.

16. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City and **HARRIS COUNTY** for use of Precinct 6 Constables in the Greater Fifth Ward and Northside Village

Communities \$90,744.00 - Grant Fund - **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY and H - VASQUEZ** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0637 ADOPTED.

17. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing settlement and full and final release between the City of Houston and **GLORIA RODRIGUEZ AND DOW, GOLUB, BERG & BEVERLY, L.L.P.** to settle a lawsuit - \$160,340.00 - Property and Casualty Fund – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Ellis.
18. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City and **AON CONSULTING, INC** for Consulting Services for the Health Benefits Program; providing a maximum contract amount 3Years with two one-year options - \$1,509,000.00 - Health Benefits Fund – was presented, and tagged by Council Members Edwards, Tatro, Keller and Sekula-Gibbs.
19. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City and **THE SEGAL COMPANY (TEXAS), INC** for Consulting Services for the Health Benefits Program; providing a maximum contract amount - 3 Years with two one-year options - \$235,000.00 - Health Benefits Fund – was presented, and tagged by Council Members Ellis, Sekula-Gibbs, Keller, Tatro and Edwards.
20. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 97-1017 (passed by City Council on August 20, 1997) to increase the maximum contract amount and approving and authorizing first amendment to contract between the City and **AMERICAN MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, INC** for Computer Software Maintenance Services for Information Technology Department - \$421,000.00 - General Fund – was presented, and tagged by Council Members Ellis, Keller and Sekula-Gibbs.
21. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 01-0625 (passed by City Council on June 27, 2001) to increase the maximum contract amount and approving and authorizing first amendment to contract between the City and **COMPUWARE CORPORATION** for Mainframe Computer Software Maintenance Services for Information Technology Department - \$194,000.00 - General Fund – was presented, and tagged by Council Members Ellis and Sekula-Gibbs.
22. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 96-656 to increase the maximum contract amount for contract between the City of Houston and **COMPUTER ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC** for Additional Software Maintenance and Support Services for Municipal Data Center Sysview Operating Software System - \$324,100.00 - General Fund – was presented, and tagged by Council Members Sekula-Gibbs, Ellis and Goldberg.
23. ORDINANCE appropriating \$7,746,000.00 out of Fire Consolidated Construction Fund, approving and authorizing purchase of easements and other interests in real property and payment of the costs of such purchases and/or condemnations of such real property and associated costs for Appraisal Fees, Title Policies/Services, Recording Fees, Court Costs and Expert Witness Fees for and in connection with, and finding a public necessity for, the Renovation and Expansion of the Training Academy, CIP C-0068, the Fire Station No. 37 Relocation Project, CIP C-0147, the Downtown Superstation, CIP C-0149; and replenishing existing Fund CNA-00-1 for payment of Appraisal Costs and Title expenses for various projects in the Fire Department Capital Improvement Plan - **DISTRICTS C - GOLDBERG; E - WISEMAN and I – ALVARADO** – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Parker.

Council Member Berry asked that they add his tag to the item and requested that

someone visit with him on the downtown super station.

Council Member Parker stated that was her issue as well.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs asked that her tag be added to the item as well.

Council Member Tatro stated that he would like to have a meeting and also at the meeting he would like some written documentation as to why it had been decided that an entire block was needed for the facility, that it was some very expensive real estate and was very concerned about the total cost of the project and the justification for using the entire block, and Mayor Brown stated that they would have someone submit that to him.

25. ORDINANCE appropriating \$313,434.00 out of Police Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing professional engineering consulting services contract between the City of Houston and **J. F. THOMPSON, INC** for Tropical Storm Allison Flood Damage Repairs and Mitigation for 61 and 62 Riesner Street, CIP G-0071-05-2; providing funding for environmental services and for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Police Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT H - VASQUEZ** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0638 ADOPTED.
30. ORDINANCE awarding construction contract to **ANGEL BROTHERS ENTERPRISES, LTD.**, for construction of Neighborhoods to Standards, Tier IX Overlay Program; GFS N-1037-02-3 (OL2039); providing funding for engineering testing, construction management, and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by Community Development Block Grant Funds - \$3,480,000.00 - **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY; D - EDWARDS and I - ALVARADO** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0639 ADOPTED.

MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE CONSIDERED AS FOLLOWS:

MATTERS HELD - NUMBERS 31 through 35

31. ORDINANCE appropriating \$218,748.10 out of Storm Sewer Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing amendment to construction contract with **TEXAS STERLING CONSTRUCTION, LP** for Construction of Knollwood Village Drainage Improvements, (passed by Ordinance No. 2002-0588), CIP M-0252-01-3 (SM5016) - **DISTRICT C – GOLDBERG** – (**This was Item 2 on Agenda of June 25, 2003, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GALLOWAY**) – was presented.

Council Member Goldberg moved to delay Item Numbers 31 and 31 a for one week, seconded by Council Member Alvarado. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in the family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0874 ADOPTED.

- 31a. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$238,955.32 on contract with **TEXAS STERLING CONSTRUCTION, LP** for Construction of Knollwood Village Drainage Improvements, CIP M-0252-01-3 (SM5016) - **DISTRICT C – GOLDBERG** – (**This was Item 2a on Agenda of June 25, 2003, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GALLOWAY**) – was presented and postponed by MOTION 2003-0874.

32. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY CENTER, INC** for Comprehensive Management, Quality Assurance and Employee Competency Testing Services relating to the Houston Police Department Crime Laboratory - \$169,400.00 - General and Asset Forfeiture Funds – **(This was Item 24 on Agenda of June 25, 2003, POSTPONE BY MOTION #2003-0700)** – was presented.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that her question was not about the money necessary to employ the agency, but the ultimate goal, were they going to see options presented to them about outsourcing the crime lab completely, were they prepared to develop it, and Mayor Brown stated that there would be an option about outsourcing the DNA testing section, and Council Member Sekula-Gibbs asked if they knew how much it would cost at this point, and Mayor Brown stated that right now it was costing about \$3 million to do it, that it was expensive, and Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that Mr. Epstein had indicated that in order to get the crime lab up to a standard to be appropriate for the City that it would cost 20% to 40% more, that it was just an off the cuff number and her suspicion was that it might also apply to the amount of money spent on the crime lab, so her question really went to Mr. Haines, were they prepared to be able to come up with that money for the Police Department in order to pay for a quality crime lab, and Mr. Haines stated that he thought the question was, “was there a choice”, and Mayor Brown stated that they really did not, that what they had to do was to make sure they did the correct analysis to make sure that justice prevailed. Council Members Tatro and Robinson absent.

Council Member Vasquez stated that last week they talked about as part of it they would also have a policy roadmap so to speak in terms of reaching national accreditation standards and just wanted to reinforce that it was part of the item, and Mayor Brown stated that was correct, that they were going to provide it to them. Council Members Tatro and Robinson absent.

Council Member Ellis stated that he was in favor of delaying the item so he could speak to some professionals throughout the State at the DPS DNA testing facility as well as a gentleman who helped write the accreditation standards for DNA testing, that he was a doctor out of North Texas State University, that he thought that there was too much expense until he read to him the RCA and everything that was entailed and he said that if they were doing all of the things that were stated in the RCA that he could see why it would cost \$170,000, that he wanted to take the opportunity also to address a letter that was sent to the Mayor, all Council Members and Chief Bradford by the District Attorney, Mr. Charles Rosenthal, that it stated in the letter that based on his analysis he had identified 381 previously disposed cases and 105 currently pending cases to date that he would ask to be tested or retested and that many people were in jail or prison and some of them may have been wrongfully convicted because of the problems in the City's laboratory, that there were victims whose lives now hinged upon retesting and whether they had to endure another trial or release of a perpetrator, that both groups had families who were also waiting, that he also stated “I understand that you (the Council), Chief Bradford and the officers and staff of the Houston Police Department were interested in concluding this process so that many would be exonerated, if they're innocent, and whether or not we could verify those remaining, whether or not they were guilty or not”, that he also stated that he would like to restore the public's faith in their criminal justice system and he respectfully requested that Council approve the necessary appropriations within the next couple of weeks so that they could expedite the process and move forward. Council Member Ellis further stated that he had no idea what it would cost to test one of the cases or to test the samples and so forth, so he did not expect an answer today, but would like some response to the following question, how much was it going to cost them to retest the 381 samples that the District Attorney was requesting that they do and expedite, how long would it take, could they use multiple labs in testing the cases, could they expect to receive any relief from any State and/or Federal funding, that those were four questions that he would love to have answered. Council Member Robinson absent.

A vote was called on Item No. 32. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Robinson absent. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0640 ADOPTED.

Mayor Brown stated that they would get answers to Council Member Ellis's questions but what the District Attorney was asking was what they had been calling for all along, that there was no difference in opinion, if there were any questions on any case where someone had been convicted based on DNA analysis and there were any questions, it was their obligation and duty and responsibility to make sure they answered all questions on that and they were proceeding on that.

At 9:30 a.m. Mayor Brown stated that they would break from the agenda and move to the public session and requested the City Secretary to the speakers.

Mr. Jim Box, 16017 Kevindale Court, Houston, Texas 77040 (713-937-0735) appeared and stated that he was president of the Greater Houston Builders Association and represented the Houston Real Estate Council and they were in favor of the fee increase for the building inspection and plan review requested by Mr. Litke and urged its passage. Council Members Goldberg, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Council Member Parker stated that both she and Council Member Keller had that as budget amendments, it was fast track; and upon questions, Mr. Box stated that Mr. Litke promised to keep the fee for that purpose and he was willing to pay. Council Members Goldberg, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Alvarado, Mr. Box stated that the proposal on the table was to go to fee inspectors and that was a process used in other areas; that FHA used that process for years and it was a way to know long-term commitment and felt it was worth pursuing. Council Member Alvarado stated that she hoped the Planning Department would take into consideration Mr. Box's suggestion. Council Members Goldberg and Vasquez absent.

Council Member Tatro stated he would like Mr. Box to expand on the fee inspectors; and Mr. Box stated that you would pay the city a fee for processing the plan and the city in turn would hire contract inspectors, there were firms that did that and they were certified and they had to follow the code. Council Members Goldberg, Vasquez and Alvarado absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Ellis, Mr. Box stated that he did not think the city had the authority to revoke their license, but if they were on the accepted list to be used by the city they would have all the clout over them needed because that was how they made a living. Council Members Goldberg, Vasquez and Alvarado absent.

Council Member Keller thanked Mr. Box for all his work and stated that the strictest board he ever dealt with was the State Board of Engineers and no engineering company wanted to come close to their review and in his opinion this action saved the industry much more than it cost and he applauded the Administration for addressing it and making the field more fair. Council Members Vasquez and Alvarado absent.

Item 10 was again before Council. Council Members Vasquez and Alvarado absent.

10. **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF HOUSTON CONSTRUCTION CODE** and the **CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to Fees – was presented, and was tagged by Council Member Wiseman. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. Council Members Vasquez and Alvarado absent.

Council Member Edwards moved that the rules be suspended for the purpose of moving Mr. Sherif Mohamed to the top of the three minute speakers, seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Members Ellis, Vasquez and Alvarado absent. MOTION 2003-0865 ADOPTED.

Council Member Wiseman stated that she would like Mayor Brown to assist in getting the Planning Director to visit with her on Item 10; that she supported the effort but wanted to make sure good intentions did not go bad and all was in the proper order. Mayor Brown stated that he would visit with and reassure her. Council Members Ellis and Vasquez absent.

Ms. Kristen Jones, 3214 Ferndale, Houston, Texas 77098 (713-529-1230) appeared and stated that sidewalk access was a necessity of life for those with disabilities and lack of it was major isolation; that today she was calling on city leaders to develop and implement a citywide program and ordinance for sidewalk design, construction and maintenance to bring freedom and opportunity to all. Council Members Ellis and Vasquez absent.

Mayor Brown stated that Ms. Kym King would meet with her on behalf of the city. Council Members Ellis and Vasquez absent.

Ms. Njeri Shakur, 2901 Fulton, Houston, Texas 77009 (713-521-0629) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis and Vasquez absent.

Mr. Sherif Mohamed, 8303 Southwest Freeway #600, Houston, Texas 77074 appeared and stated that he was president of the Houston European Sports Association a local chapter of the European Sports Federation of North America and he and those present with him were present to thank the Mayor and Council and HISD for help in securing facilities which enabled them to win over other large cities and allowed them to host the event which was a week long, attracted over 15,000 people from all over; and contributed from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000. The president of the SFNA stated that they were extremely impressed with the support from Mayor Brown's Office and had a presentation for him. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis and Vasquez absent.

Council Member Edwards congratulated Mr. Mohamed on his works and that of the community. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis, Keller and Vasquez absent.

Council Member Berry moved that the rules be suspended for the purpose of hearing Mr. Ray Jones as the next speaker, seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis, Keller and Vasquez absent. MOTION 2003-0876 ADOPTED.

Mr. Ray A. Jones, Jr., 3214 Ferndale, Houston, Texas 77098 (713-529-7887) appeared and stated that he wanted to bring Council up to date on the West Alabama Quality of Life Coalition efforts and issues being faced at the time; that the budget for the project related to diverting traffic off 59 was at \$13,000,000. proposed by the facilitation team and the city put up about \$3,000,000. and recently approved was \$4,000,000. from Harris County and \$4,000,000. from METRO; that another \$2,000,000. came from CEMAQ funds (Congestion Management and Air Quality) and recently they heard that the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration which managed the funds pulled the \$2,000,000. from the project and that left the project at least \$2,000,000. short and the question was why did they pull it and he understood the answer was because the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration saw no congestion mitigation benefits in the Richmond and West Alabama Project nor did they see any air quality improvements from the project; that the West Alabama Quality of Life Coalition said all along that the project as proposed would not work and the engineers hired by

the Downtown Management District said Richmond was already maxed out at peak hours and West Alabama was not appropriate for the kind of traffic diversion planned for the streets and really the project should be held off. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis, Keller and Vasquez absent.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that the transportation was serious; and upon questions, Mr. Jones stated that his group had a couple of suggestions that had not been taken very seriously and one was the entities involved, in particular the governmental agencies, needed to go back to TXDOT and look at an extension of the construction process on the 527 Spur, it needed to be delayed about three years and allow other things to be completed. Council Members Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that maybe this should go back to Council Member Robinson's committee; that she did not know the \$2,000,000. was pulled and it seemed that was a serious blow to the ultimate success of the project; and Council Member Robinson stated that he had no problem if the Mayor wanted to refer it to his committee for the July Agenda for an update and they would also see if someone from the Transportation Policy Council could attend and give guidance on what the next step should be. Council Members Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that the city had been working with Mr. Jones and there were several problems, one was an outdated EPA report done almost 20 years ago and the problem was TXDOT who was entrenched in their position and deadset on going ahead; that Mr. Vanden Bosch and other groups had been working diligently on trying to do a plan more reasonable for the area and changing demographics; and upon questions, Mr. Jones stated that WAQ retained Blackburn Carter to look at environmental issue impacts in the community and they came up with a letter to TXDOT and the Federal Highway Administration asking that they reevaluate the 20 year old document, but TXDOT came back stating they were satisfied with the study and wanted to proceed so now they needed to raise money to file a lawsuit. Council Member Edwards stated that TXDOT was not hearing the committee, community or county and city engineers who were all saying it was a bad plan and anything the Mayor could bring to the mix would be appreciated. Council Members Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Jones for coming and stated that Council Member Robinson's committee would have an update and he would receive a briefing. Council Members Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mr. Richard L. Freeman, 121 Riggs Rd., Houston, Texas 77002, no phone, appeared, presented information and stated that he was present regarding Workmen's Comp; that July 9, 2001 METRO was sent certified mail with no response and the last time he filed was in the U. S. District Court at 515 Rusk and that was in April, 2001 and then it was transferred to Federal Judge Gilmore and then to Judge Sim Lake; and he also filed something with the City Secretary in February; and Mr. Freeman's time expired. Council Members Tatro, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mrs. Mary Wheeler, 3334 Dragonwick, Houston, Texas 77045 (713-434-0258) appeared and stated that she was present on behalf of senior citizens and the disabled, people living in the Hiram Clarke Area, government apartments were coming up everywhere but Hiram Clarke was not and she was asking that it be looked into as the homeless, poor and seniors should be helped. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mayor Brown stated that he did have a Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and he would continue to work with them to address the issue. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mr. Steven Williams, no address, no phone had reserved time to speak but was not

present when his name was called. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Ms. Dollie Hicks, 4101 Alief Village, Houston, Texas 77076 (281-568-4684) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mr. R. J. Bobby Taylor, 3107 Sumpter, Houston, Texas 77020 (202-FA3-4511) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Wiseman, Ellis, Keller, Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mr. Robert Horton, 3714 Bain, Houston, Texas 77026 (713-260-6144) appeared and stated that all Council Members were guilty of all kinds of crimes and continued with his personal opinions until his time expired. Council Members Parker and Berry absent.

Mrs. Evelyn Woods, 13005 Cullen Blvd., Houston, Texas 77057 (713-738-3443) appeared, presented information and stated that due to an anonymous complaint city inspectors went out and gave them a citation for having one room in their home being used as an office; that she and her husband were both real estate agents and their home was in a commercial area and she could not see why they could not use one room as an office; that the city inspector wanted them to change the room to commercial use and the house was built as residential; that she had a city sign and a city permit for it and thought she was in compliance, but now she felt she was being harassed and was hoping for Council's assistance in getting it resolved. Council Members Vasquez, Parker and Berry absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that she was trying to get a meeting with appropriate departments to see what the problem was, she was understanding it was the occupancy code and not the sign; and upon questions, Mr. Hall stated that Council set different standards for commercial properties which required occupancy permits and there was not a way to use a small portion of the home and exempt it; that everything was designed to protect the public and he did not know if that could be walled off with a different entrance but the general premise was if it was a commercial activity inviting the public in it had to meet the same standards as every other commercial activity and he would be happy to work with the Council Member. Council Members Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mayor Brown stated that Ms. Hartgrove with the Planning Department was in the Chamber and would speak with her at this time. Council Members Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mr. Robert Woods, 13005 Cullen Blvd., Houston, Texas 77057 (713-738-3443) appeared and stated that he and his wife wanted to acknowledge those who were trying to work with them to get their problem resolved and that was Ms. Robinson in the Mayor's Office and her supervisor Ms. Dillard and Mr. Robert Norris in Planning and Council Member Edwards; that they were trying to comply with city ordinances but was a small company without a lot of money and they would appreciate all assistance. Council Members Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mayor Brown stated that Ms. Hartgrove with the Planning Department was in the Chamber and would speak with them at this time. Council Members Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mr. Francisco, Campos, 1842 Hugh Oaks, Houston, Texas 77055 (713-907-8327) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Vasquez and Berry absent.

Ms. Tina De Quendo, 3732 Thistlemont, Houston, Texas 77042 (713-443-1653) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mr. Rick Cheesman, 8907 N. Kitmore, Houston, Texas 77099 (281-876-4670) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Vasquez and Berry absent.

Mr. John Johnson, 7102 Wendemere, Houston, 77088 (832-453-1900) appeared and stated that he spoke to Council regarding getting weeded lots cut next to his rental property; that there were weeds four to six feet tall and the property owner was given a March deadline to cut but did not and then given a May deadline but it was still there; that his property had possums and rabbits running across because of the weeded lots on both sides, but the main issue he was present for was because he had been coming to Council about two and a half years speaking about Mr. Gary Bridges in Planning, he asked Council to have Mr. Bridges leave him alone as he said he would not allow him to present plans to the city anymore and Council said as long as he complied with the city code he would be able to present plans so then Mr. Bridges took the initiative to write to Austin about him so now he was in a lawsuit with Austin about presenting plans to the City of Houston and he wanted to know the best course of action to take at this time, could Council do something or should he hire a lawyer. Council Members Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Mayor Brown stated that Ms. Hartgrove was present and he would like him to meet with her and she would do what was necessary to resolve the issue and report back to the Mayor and Council the resolution. Council Members Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Ms. Mei Gong, 6401 Ranchester #132, Houston, Texas (713-500-5446) appeared and stated that there was a Hong Kong Super Market in Houston and it benefited both Houston and Hong Kong, but Hong Kong legislation was cutting the basic freedom of their beliefs; that God created human beings and if they did not believe in God how would they have their life; that she could not give up her life to do something for money so she was present asking that they speak to the Hong Kong Government as soon as possible and request them to stop their next legislation. Council Members Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Mr. Jason Wang, 4454 S. MacGregor #1, Houston, Texas 77021 (713-842-2714) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Mr. Winston Renfro, 6114 Founding Dr., Katy, Texas 77449 (832-563-9662) appeared and stated that he was a former cadet of the City of Houston Fire Department and released on June 24, 2003, for accumulating four tardies within a years time; that he was released one day before his year being complete in the department and he was present seeking help in a couple of issues; that in the past years seven months for training and four tardies was for that time, but now the program was extended for fourteen months and no changes were made for tardies or excused absences; that discussions had been made on the issues by officers over the training but there were no changes and he was asking that Council might look over this and he be reinstated. Council Members Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Mayor Brown stated that Chief Simms who was present would meet with him and get a recommendation back to Council. Council Members Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Mr. Clark Alexander, P. O. Box 4208055, Houston, Texas 77242 (281-438-8055) appeared and stated that he was present asking for help in getting an answer to two questions in relation to the Anderson Road Construction Project in district D, first was what date would the City of Houston and the Hartford Surety Company sign a takeover agreement to complete the project and second, was cutting the weeds and cleaning up the job site as there were weeds and trash and nothing was done since 2000; that he had a letter addressed to him from Mr. Jon Vanden Bosch dated December 11, 2002, stating they were currently under negotiations with the bonding surety company and hoped the agreement would be signed in a couple of weeks and it also said Public Works and Engineering would work through the Right of Way Maintenance

Division to clean up trash and cut the weeds; that he had a summary of the project saying it should be complete in 2000 and now they were in 2003; that this could not be the first time such happened nor the last and there must be a better process needed to address such issues; that he was asking for all to be taken care of; and he presented his information to Council Member Edwards. Council Members Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that she received word from Public Works this morning that they were going to put the project out for bid and deal with the surety company in another way, but she would ask for a consistent cleaning of the area until it was taken care of. Council Members Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Mayor Brown stated that Mr. Robert Fiederlein of Public Works would follow-up and make sure the problem was taken care of. Council Members Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Mr. Bertholomew Stephens, P. O. Box 451204, Houston, Texas 77245 appeared and stated that he worked with the City of Houston Health Department and was present addressing the irregularities in their department especially in the areas of employment and promotions; that promotions had predominately been for friends and relatives and the deputy director of the department falsified information to promote a friend in February and Council received his E-mails and it was pulled back and now he was being retaliated against for blowing the whistle and still nothing had been done to investigate the matter; that if a director complained it received prompt attention and investigation and he was appealing to the Mayor and Council to take time to read his presentation and have the issues addressed. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Mayor Brown stated that he should give his presentation to Mr. Cantu and they would follow-up on his written and oral concerns. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Mr. Dewayne Lark, P. o. Box 330832, Houston, Texas 77233 (713-731-2230) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Vasquez, Berry and Robinson absent.

Ms. Gloria Rubac, 1430 Studewood Street, Houston, Texas 77008 713-861-5965) appeared, presented information and stated that in 1992 Nanon Williams who was 17 years old was falsely arrested for capital murder and due to failure of his court-appointed attorney to get a ballistics expert he was unable to prove he did not shoot the victim and was sentenced to death row in 1995 and that was in despite of the fact that the police were in possession of the gun fired by another suspect who was present at the crime scene and had a tape recording in which the suspect admitted firing his gun at the victim, but this suspect was the main witness for the prosecution and had his capital murder charges dropped in return for his testimony against Nanon Williams; that in 1998 the courts finally allowed firearms testing to be carried out and the test showed it was the witness who fired the fatal shot and the evidence was so strong that in May 2001 the judge recommended to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals that a new trial should be held, but in April 2002 the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals declined to accept the judge's recommendation and today she was present to put forth a resolution which she read to Council, with its summary being for Council to support a call for immediate release of Nanon Williams and that August 2, 2003, which would be his 29th birthday, be declared "Free Nanon Williams Day" in the City of Houston, Texas. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Mayor Brown stated that her request would be taken under consideration. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Ms. Anita Babineaux, 8660 Flower Path, Houston, Texas 77048 (832-236-0527) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called. Council Members

Tatro, Goldberg, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

The City Secretary stated that Ms. Njeri Shakur was now present and with Council's permission would speak at this time. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Ms. Njeri Shakur, 2901 Fulton, Houston, Texas 77009 (713-521-0629) appeared and stated that Houston had been really reeling from news of the crime lab and Council's attention was turned to that, but this may be the first time they heard of Nanon Williams in particular; that all was outraged about what had happened with the DNA at the lab and people were shifting blame and pointing fingers and while that was going on Nanon had lost more than a decade of his life and subjected to so much brutality; that more than human error was at fault here and though they appreciated the attention turned to the crime lab they were asking attention be given to Nanon Williams when people were innocent they could not allow such things to happen. Council Members Tatro, Goldberg, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Council Member Parker thanked Ms. Shakur for coming and stated that she did support a court of inquiry in this issue; that she felt they were moving rapidly in fixing problems at the crime lab for the future, but had a long way to go in resolving issues to this point and the District Attorney should also step aside and allow a court of inquiry to uncover everything from the prosecutor and the crime lab. Council Members Goldberg, Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that Ms. Shakur and Ms. Rubac had been doing this for some time and this was the first she heard of this young man, but she would encourage them to work with Council to get the court of inquiry called for by them and the Mayor and she felt it would have an affect for Mr. Williams and others also. Council Members Goldberg and Vasquez absent.

President Joseph Charles, P. O. Box 524373, Houston, Texas 77052 (713-203-7738) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Goldberg and Vasquez absent.

At 10:44 a.m. Mayor Brown stated that they would return to the agenda. Council Member Vasquez absent.

Council Member Alvarado stated that she would like to take a point of personal privilege and introduce a young man that was spending the morning in their office, Mr. Jarred Leeland, that he was the son of the late Mr. Mickey Leeland, and he was interning with Senator Rodney Ellis, that he was a student at Kincaid and was trying to learn all that he could about local government as well as State government, that he wanted to recognize him and asked that they all welcome him to City Hall.

33. ORDINANCE appropriating \$114,180.90 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and \$138,000.00 out of Affordable Housing Midtown Bond Fund; and approving and authorizing Developer Participation Contract between the City of Houston and **DOMINION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INC** for Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Lines for Section Two of the Dominion Estates Subdivision, CIP R-0800-81-03 and S-0800-81-03 - **DISTRICT A – TATRO – (This was Item 32 on Agenda of June 25, 2003, POSTPONED BY MOTION #2003-709)** – was presented.

Council Member Ellis stated that he needed to ask a question to Mr. Hall, that it was on Item No. 33, dealing with Dominion Community Development Corporation, Inc. and wanted to let the item move forward but the corporation owned a number of properties that it was delinquent in the paying of their taxes and asked if they were exempt from paying the ad valorem taxes, did he

know, and Mr. Hall stated that he did not know, that he could find out.

Council Member Ellis moved to postpone Item No. 33 until the next meeting, seconded by Council Member Wiseman. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0877 ADOPTED.

Mayor Brown stated that they could check into that, that quite often they would purchase property that would already have delinquent taxes and they go about the process of paying it and they would find out if that was the case.

34. ORDINANCE awarding construction contract **SER CONSTRUCTION PARTNERS, LTD** for Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Systems for Section Three of the Tierra Glen Subdivision CIP S-0800-79-03 and R-0800-79-03; approving an assignment of this construction contract to **BEAZER HOMES OF TEXAS, L.P. - DISTRICT E - WISEMAN** – **(This was Item 35 on Agenda of June 25, 2003, POSTPONED BY MOTION 2003-0711)** – was presented.

Council Member Ellis moved to postpone Item No. 34 until the next meeting, seconded by Council Member Wiseman. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0878 ADOPTED.

35. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing professional materials engineering laboratory contract between the City of Houston and **A&R ENGINEERING AND TESTING, INC;** for Engineering Material Testing Services for the Department of Public Works & Engineering and Houston Airport System – **(This was Item 36 on Agenda of June 25, 2003, POSTPONED BY MOTION 2003-0712)** – was presented.

Council Member Ellis moved to refer Item No. 35 back to the administration, seconded by Council Member Tatro. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in family. Council Member Quan absent on personal business. MOTION 2003-0879 ADOPTED.

11. ORDINANCE relating to the use of certain Extended Body Limousines that were in service prior to the adoption of recent Limousine Regulations and Ordinances – was again before Council. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Galloway absent due to death in the family. Council Member Quan absent due to personal business. ORDINANCE 2003-0641 ADOPTED.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Ellis stated that he wanted to talk about sodium hydrochloride which had to do with the purchase made on June 26, 2003, where they used a reverse auction procedure; that it was a great success and it was a new and improved modern way of handling a procurement department; that they received 200 bids and it was an astonishing testament of reverse auction as a procurement tool with a 21% cost savings and or \$3.5 million and the city no longer had an existing contract for sodium hydrochloride.

Council Member Goldberg stated that NSR 448, Westwood, was bid in District C a few months ago and if they could get it approved by Council so they could begin work he would appreciate it; that Mr. Vanden Bosch wanted to build an incentive clause into the project, but he did not think that was going to pan out as it would be difficult to do one bid because it would not be fair to the other bidders; and he would like it on the Agenda as soon as possible; and Mayor Brown stated that they would try and have it in Council's next meeting.

Council Member Goldberg stated that regarding Neighborhood Protection and Monticello Flanagan he did not know what the problem was but more than a year ago, January 2002, there was a fire in an apartment complex at 7600 West Airport and the rubble from the building was still there and whoever had the responsibility to get rid of it he would like it done; that he had no help with Neighborhood Protection; and Mayor Brown stated that he would address it.

Council Member Wiseman stated that as Council Member Goldberg pointed out there were eyesores throughout the city and one in particular was the street of Carsondale, the amount of trash and old tires was disgusting and along with that was furniture and a badly decomposed dog; that it was upsetting it was brought to the city's attention and they had not taken any action; and she was asking that the Mayor assist her in getting rid of this and she thanked her constituent for bringing it to her attention.

Council Member Wiseman stated that with regards to projects that could not seem to move forward, the Gulf Meadows water line project notice to proceed was issued about a month ago and nothing had yet started; and she was asking for the Mayor's assistance on that also; and Mayor Brown stated that both issues would be addressed.

Council Member Robinson stated that he was unable to attend the TTI Committee Meeting and wanted to thank the Legal Department; that they received a memo they needed to do a study so they could move forward on the overweight truck permit fees locally and he understood it was in the works between F & A and Public Works and he looked forward to getting it back.

Council Member Robinson stated that one of the Bills the Governor signed was a cleanup bill relative to a no trucks in the left lane on I45 and TXDOT said if Mayor Brown would send them a letter they would revise the original ordinance and they could move forward on it; and Mayor Brown stated that would be taken care of.

Council Member Edwards stated that the Comets had a great game last night and she wanted to congratulate them and anyone who liked basketball should check them out.

Council Member Edwards stated that she also wanted to congratulate whoever was responsible for getting the final four here in Houston as it would be great for the city.

Council Member Edwards stated that regarding the issue Mr. Jones brought to Council today regarding U. S. 59 Spur 527, ever since she had been a Council Member it had been a contentious item; that TXDOT had taken an entrenched position based on what she saw as an antiquated plan, according to those she respected in engineering it would not fix the issue as the plan was made when demographics and EPA standards were different and it was amazing how a bureaucracy in a state government which was supposed to be there for the citizens would not listen to the citizens or the professionals and to her it bordered on arrogant; and she would appreciate anyone who had any influence with the state to get them to listen.

Council Member Edwards stated that she was excited there was to be movement on Anderson Road and until they could get the bid she would ask that they just keep it clean; that she believed that was what the residents wanted was just to not be hit with the blight always seen.

Council Member Vasquez stated that he wanted to bring to everyone's attention that this July 4th the Lindale Park Civic Club was hosting its annual Fourth of July Parade beginning at 10:00 a.m. and starting at Irvington and Eleanor and end at Moody Park and he would encourage all to take their families.

Council Member Vasquez stated that he wanted to recognize Travis Elementary whose Spark Park was one of the five finalist in the Best New Park World Wide Competition put on by

Project for Public Spaces and though they did not win it was a tremendous honor for the Spark Park Program to be recognized as one of the five finalist in a worldwide competition.

Council Member Keller stated that last Thursday he co-chaired an event with Council Member Goldberg and Alan Helpman in Council Member Goldberg's District and he wanted everyone to know they were on track with the Chief's leadership and Mayor's support to raise all money needed for a shoot house for the SWAT Team and he thanked all those involved and if anyone wanted to help they could make checks out to TTPOA, the phone number was 713-650-0041 and address was P. O. Box 1283, Houston Texas 77251.

Council Member Keller stated that his office, and he hoped a couple of other offices, next week would be working with the Star of Hope, July 7th through July 16th, gathering food and it would be greatly appreciated; that a tax donation could also be made to the Star of Hope and their phone number was 713-748-0700.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs wished everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July.

Council Member Parker stated that she wanted to thank officers who patrolled the Westheimer Street Fest and the Gay Pride Parade over the weekend; that there was a heavy presence of officers at taxpayers expense and she heard many compliments; that she also wanted to compliment Captain Muench who she spoke to several times over the weekend.

Council Member Parker stated that on a sadder note she wanted to note the passing of one of the members of the Legal Department, Judy Hatfield, a Senior Assistant City Attorney who was in the Business Litigation Division, she died Monday after a lengthy battle with Cancer, she had been with the Legal Department nine years and was a very effective, creative litigator who disposed of many high profile, complex cases; she was an exceptional attorney, a very nice individual and she would really miss their chats on community issues.

Council Member Alvarado stated that her office was involved with the Citizens Assistance Office and the Rockets on Root Square Park, regarding moving the homeless; that she wanted to express her concern about moving the whole operation to Baldwin Square Park in Midtown; that she received numerous calls from constituents in the area and she would urge the Administration to consider some other alternatives; that they needed to look at a long-term solution and though she knew they were pressed for time she hoped another option could be considered.

Council Member Alvarado stated that since last week's budget meeting when Council voted to merge 311 and Citizens Assistance she had received calls from employees at 311 wanting to know what would happen and she hoped they would get answers soon so they would know where they stood.

Council Member Alvarado stated that she had received a handful of letters regarding Miller Outdoor Theatre and she hoped they could get a briefing, perhaps from Council Member Parker's committee, to give a status update; and Mayor Brown stated that he would make sure it happened.

Council Member Berry stated that he wanted to echo Council Member Parker's comments with regard to the festival last weekend; that it did bare noting it was at the taxpayers expense which he thought was the organizers blatantly disregard for city regulations and ordinances, but he lived near there and had no complaints and that he would attribute to the Police Department who did an excellent job and they should be commended.

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 11:13 a.m. upon MOTION by Council Member Wiseman, seconded by Council Member Tatro. Council Member Galloway out of the city on city business. Council Member Robinson absent. INFORMATION ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY.

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

Anna Russell, City Secretary