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Office of Council Member
TIFFANY D. THOMAS
District F

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COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS RELEASES PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ON AVAILABLE FAITH-BASED LAND IN HOUSTON

HOUSTON, TX – Council Member Tiffany D. Thomas, District F, is releasing new preliminary data that reveals faith institutions across Houston reportedly hold **more than 1,000 acres** of land that could support future housing initiatives.

The data, collected through three years of registration and survey activities during the Faith & Affordable Housing Summits (2024–2026), provide an important first look at the scale of land that may be suitable for future affordable housing partnerships or community driven development opportunities across the Greater Houston region.

Across the three-year period, **551 registration and survey responses** were submitted. Of the 214 responses received in 2026, 39 institutions reported land, totaling approximately 291 acres.

These early figures are based on self-reported data and are pending formal parcel level verification and GIS analysis now underway through a grant-funded partnership between Council Member Thomas, E Pluribus Unum (EPU), and Gold Axis LLC. This next phase will confirm exact acreage, ownership boundaries, and development feasibility using available parcel records, and will inform a comprehensive public dashboard of participating institutions and their properties to be released in January 2027.

“Our office is committed to expanding the toolbox for affordable housing solutions,” said Council Member Tiffany D. Thomas, District F. “Faith institutions are deeply rooted in community, and this early data shows real potential for innovative land based strategies that meet both current and future housing needs.”

National trends reinforce this local opportunity Across the U.S., faith-based institutions and local organizations hold over 2.6 million acres of underutilized land—enough potential to

support 800,000 new homes. Growing initiatives like "Yes in God's Backyard" (YIGBY) are demonstrating how these underutilized assets can be strategically mobilized to address housing shortages.

As a pioneer mobilizing local faith communities, Council Member Thomas has positioned Houston ahead of the national curve, advancing faith-based land strategies prior to recent federal efforts like Rep. Adam' proposed "Faith-Based Affordable Housing Predevelopment Fund Act."

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Tiffany D. Thomas is the Houston City Council Member for District F, of which she is a longtime resident, representing Alief, Westchase, Tanglewilde, Briar Meadow, Westmont, and the historic Piney Point. As Chair of Housing and Affordability for the City of Houston, she oversees priorities related to Housing, Homelessness and Disaster Recovery.

For media inquiries or to schedule an interview with Council Member Thomas, please contact Monique Welch-Rutherford at 832.374.5977 or monique.welchrutherford@houstontx.gov

For general District F inquiries or community concerns, contact the District F at 832.393.3002 or districtf@houstontx.gov.