

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New \$6.9 Million Judson Robinson, Sr. Community Center Grand Opening**

Houston City Council Member Jerry Davis and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will host ribbon cutting ceremonies for the new Judson Robinson, Sr. Community Center on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at 1411 Ledwicke Street in the Pleasantville neighborhood of northeast Houston. The \$6.9 million project includes a new 12,800 square foot community center with a gymnasium, large classroom, kitchen, computer room, new playground, football field and an expanded parking lot. The Community Center will be LEED certified for its energy and environmental design.

“This spectacular facility will become a treasure in the historic Pleasantville community,” according to Steve Wright, Houston Parks and Recreation Director. “We are proud to be a part of honoring the legacy of Judson Robinson, Sr. He was a true pioneer in this city and impacted so many lives. This project is a fitting tribute to everything he stood for.”

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department worked with the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs and the Houston Arts Alliance to include civic art as part of the project. Artist Marsha Dorsey-Outlaw worked with the community to create an inspirational mural for the facility’s lobby space.

Judson Robinson, Sr. was a founding member of the Houston Area Urban League. He was the first African-American appointed to the Houston Housing Authority board. His real estate business was the first African-American mortgage company in the state approved by the Federal Housing Administration. His son, Judson Robinson, Jr. was the first African-American elected to Houston City Council. Judson Robinson, Sr. died on May 11, 1985.

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