BY-LAWS
INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

ARTICLE ONE - NAME

THE NAME OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL.

ARTICLE TWO - BOUNDARIES

THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT WHERE I-610 INTERSECTS I-45, THEN WEST ALONG 610 TO YALE STREET, NORTH ON YALE TO THE HOUSTON BELT & TERMINAL RAILROAD (BETWEEN 36TH AND 37TH), THEN WEST ALONG THE RAILROAD TO NORTH SHEPHERD DRIVE, NORTH ON SHEPHERD TO TIDWELL, EAST ON TIDWELL TO I-45, AND SOUTH ON I-45 TO THE BEGINNING POINT.

ARTICLE THREE - PURPOSE

SECTION 3.1 THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL IS ORGANIZED EXCLUSIVELY FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN SECTION 501 (C)(4) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, OR CORRESPONDING SECTION OF ANY FUTURE FEDERAL TAX CODE, AND AN APPLICATION MAY BE FILED WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FOR THE 501(C)(3) OR 501(C)(4) NON-PROFIT STATUS, IF AND WHEN SO DETERMINED BY THE SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL.

SECTION 3.2 THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THIS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL IS ORGANIZED SHALL BE TO PROMOTE THE CIVIC BETTERMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND WELL-BEING OF RESIDENTS, BUSINESS AND PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD AREA, TO PROMOTE AND ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES FOR THEIR USE AND BENEFIT. THESE ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS AREA BEING SITUATED IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AND BEING THAT AREA IDENTIFIED IN ARTICLE II (BOUNDARIES).

SECTION 3.3 THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND POWER OF THE CORPORATION ARE TO HAVE AND EXERCISE ALL RIGHTS AND POWERS CONFERRED ON NON PROFIT CORPORATIONS UNDER THE TEXAS NON-PROFIT CORPORATION ACT AND OTHER LAWS OF TEXAS, OF THOSE POWERS WHICH MAY HEREINAFTER BE CONFERRED , AND (1) TO SEEK A CONSENSUS AND PROVIDE CITIZENS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVISE THE CITY COUNCIL ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO EACH NEIGHBORHOOD; (2) UNDERTAKE A WIDE RANGE OF NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS DETERMINED BY THE MEMBERS; AND (3) WITH THE COOPERATION FROM THE CITY OF HOUSTON, IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO MUTUAL PROBLEMS.

ARTICLE FOUR -MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 4.1 THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SHALL BE OPEN TO ANY CIVIC, BUSINESS, FAITH-BASED, NON-PROFIT, OR OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACTIVE STAKEHOLDERS IN THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD AREA FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS. THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF ONE DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.

SECTION 4.2 PARTICIPATION IN THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SHALL NOT BE LIMITED BY THE IMPOSITION OF MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS OR FEES EITHER BY THE SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OR PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS.

SECTION 4.3 THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL PROHIBITS THE EXCLUSION OF ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION BASED ON RACE, AGE, CREED, COLOR, RELIGION, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR NATIONAL ORIGIN FROM PARTICIPATING IN SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ACTIVITIES OR SERVING AS A COUNCIL MEMBER.

ARTICLE FIVE -COUNCIL SEATS

SECTION 5.1 ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS SHALL BE RESIDENTS OF THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD.

SECTION 5.2 THE NUMBER OF SEATS AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE ELECTED MAY BE AMENDED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE BY-LAWS MAY BE AMENDED.

SECTION 5.3 EACH GROUP, ORGANIZATION, OR ENTITY WITH A SEAT ON THE SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SHALL BE ALLOWED ONE VOTE WHICH SHALL BE CAST BY THE STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE, OR IN HIS/HER ABSENCE, BY THE DESIGNATED ALTERNATE.

SECTION 5.4 THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CONSISTS OF 8 SEATS, 8 OF WHICH HAVE ONE VOTE. THE 9^{TH} SEAT IS HELD BY THE PAST PRESIDENT OR AT-LARGE MEMBER WHO WILL ONLY VOTE IF A TIE-BREAKING VOTE IS NEEDED. AT LEAST 51% OF THE SEATS MUST BE HELD BY RESIDENTS.

ORGANIZATION CLASSIFICATION	NO. OF SEATS
NON-PROFIT	1
EDUCATIONAL	1
FAITH-BASED	2
BUSINESS	1
COMMUNITY/RESIDENT	3
AT-LARGE (FILLED BY CURRENT/PAST PRESIDENT)	1

ARTICLE SIX - OFFICERS

SECTION 6.1 THE ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SHALL BE THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, AND SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. ALL ELECTED OFFICERS SHALL BE RESIDENTS OF THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD.

SECTION 6.2 THE PRESIDENT SHALL PRESIDE OVER ALL GENERAL MEETINGS AND ANY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THE PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MEETINGS AND TO MAINTAIN ORDER. THE PRESIDENT SHALL RECOMMEND THE AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVES, AND SHALL APPOINT ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS.

SECTION 6.3 THE PRESIDENT SUCCEEDS TO THE POSITION OF PAST PRESIDENT AFTER COMPLETION OF FINAL TERM AS PRESIDENT AND SERVES AS A CONSULTANT TO THE PRESIDENT. THE PAST PRESIDENT HOLDS A SEAT ON THE COUNCIL AS A NON-VOTING MEMBER. AN ADVISORY BOARD OF PAST PRESIDENTS CAN BE ESTABLISHED IF DETERMINED BY A QUORUM OF THE COUNCIL.

SECTION 6.4 THE VICE-PRESIDENT SHALL PRESIDE AT MEETINGS IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT. THIS OFFICE SHALL ASSIST THE PRESIDENT AND SHALL PERFORM VARIOUS DUTIES AND SERVE ON COMMITTEES AS ASSIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT.

SECTION 6.5 THE SECRETARY SHALL KEEP AN ACCURATE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF ALL GENERAL MEETINGS, ATTEND TO CORRESPONDENCE, ACT AS CUSTODIAN OF CURRENT RECORDS, AND FILE AND MAINTAIN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERSHIP LISTS AND ATTENDANCE RECORDS.

SECTION 6.6 THE TREASURER SHALL KEEP AN UP-TO-DATE RECORD OF ALL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS, RECEIVE ALL MONEY, AND DEPOSIT FUNDS IN THE BANK. THE OFFICER SHALL DISBURSE MONEY AS AUTHORIZED BY THE COUNCIL. THE TREASURER SHALL PRESENT A REPORT OF FINANCES AT EACH GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL. CHECKS DISBURSED SHALL CONTAIN THE SIGNATURES OF TWO OF THE FOLLOWING: PRESIDENT, OR VICE PRESIDENT, AND THE TREASURER.

SECTION 6.7 THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SHALL OVERSEE THE SET UP AND CLEAN UP PROCESS FOR MEETINGS, GREET MEMBERS AND GUESTS, BRIEF NEW MEMBERS ON THE PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES, ADMINISTER SIGN-IN DOCUMENTATION, ENSURE THAT MEETINGS START ON TIME AND CHECK THAT ONLY AUTHORIZED MEMBERS ARE PRESENT, MAINTAIN ORDER DURING MEETINGS WITH THE AUTHORITY TO WARN AND/OR EJECT DISRUPTIVE ATTENDEES, AND MANAGE ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS SUCH AS COLLECTING BALLOTS AND TALLYING VOTES.

SECTION 6.8 ALL OFFICERS SHALL BE ELECTED TO TWO YEAR STAGGERED TERMS AT THE REGULAR JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING OF BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE(50% PLUS ONE) BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, WHERE QUOURM IS PRESENT. OFFICERS SHALL BE INSTALLED AT THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY. THE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER SHALL BE ELECTED IN EVEN YEARS AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, AND SERGEANT-AT-ARMS ELECTED IN ODD YEARS.

SECTION 6.9 OFFICERS SHALL BE LIMITED TO SERVE TWO (2) SUCCESSIVE TERMS (EXCEPT PRESIDENT AND TREASURER, WHO ARE LIMITED TO TWO TERMS PLUS AN INITIAL YEAR).

SECTION 6.10 ALL OFFICERS SHALL BE ELECTED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY QUORUM OF THE COUNCIL. NOTICE OF ELECTION WILL BE GIVEN IN OCTOBER AND NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

SECTION 6.11 A VACANCY IN AN OFFICE SHALL BE FILLED BY A SPECIAL ELECTION. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE NEXT SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD MEETING AFTER THE VACANCY OCCURS. ALL OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED BY A MAJORITY OF VOTES WHERE QUORUM IS PRESENT. OFFICERS ELECTED TO FILL VACANCIES SHALL ASSUME OFFICE AT THE FIRST EXECUTIVE MEETING FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL ELECTION AND SHALL HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 6.12 ALL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE ARE TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED ON THE SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL IN FULFILLING THEIR DUTIES AND ASSIGNED ROLES AND BEING IN ATTENDANCE AT A MINIMUM OF 90% OF SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL AND GENERAL MEETINGS.

SECTION 6.13 ANY OFFICER WHO FAILS TO MEET THE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THEIR OFFICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE OF THE SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL.

ARTICLE SEVEN -COMMITTEES

SECTION 7.1 COMMITTEES SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AS THE NEED ARISES BY THE PRESIDENT.

SECTION 7.2 THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS SHALL APPOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

ARTICLE EIGHT -MEETINGS

SECTION 8.1 THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SHALL BE HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT A TIME AND PLACE TO BE DESIGNATED BY THE SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL. ALL SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ACTIVITY WILL BE CONDUCTED IN OPEN MEETINGS WHERE COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS MAY OBSERVE DISCUSSIONS AND PARTICIPATE UNDER DEFINED CIRCUMSTANCES. MEETING NOTICES ARE GIVEN VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS.

SECTION 8.2 IN THE EVENT THAT THE GENERAL MEETING FALLS ON A LEGAL HOLIDAY, THE TIME AND DATE OF THE GENERAL MEETING SHALL BE SET BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE PRECEDING GENERAL MEETING WITH THE CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL.

SECTION 8.3 A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF THE DULY DESIGNATED SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEMBERS SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS AT A GENERAL MEETING.

SECTION 8.4 SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS/STAKEHOLDERS MAY PARTICIPATE VIA MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE NOTIFIED OF DECISIONS THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION. SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS/STAKEHOLDERS WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN NOMINATING AND VOTING FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS PER SEAT CLASSIFICATION IF THEY ARE PRESENT AT THE GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING WHEN VOTING OCCURS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS. PER SECTION 6.10, THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL VOTE FOR OFFICERS.

SECTION 8.5 AN INDIVIDUAL WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SHALL BE ALLOWED TWO (2) MINUTES TO SPEAK DURING THE TIME DESIGNATED BY THE COUNCIL FOR COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS. ANY INQUIRY TO WHICH THE COUNCIL IS UNABLE TO ADDRESS AT THE TIME PRESENTED WILL BE ADDRESSED AT THE SUBSEQUENT MEETING FOR THE GENERAL COMMUNITY TO BE INFORMED UNLESS THE COUNCIL DEEMS THE RESPONSE TO BE TIME SENSITIVE. IF THE RESPONSE IS TIME SENSITIVE, THE COUNCIL WILL DECIDE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND PRACTICAL MANNER TO RELAY THE INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING.

SECTION 8.6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS (SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL) SHALL BE HELD THE WEEK BEFORE THE GENERAL MEETING.

ARTICLE NINE -PROCEDURES

SECTION 9.1 "ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER" SHALL BE THE GUIDE FOR PROCEDURE IN ALL POINTS OF ORDER NOT COVERED BY THE BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE TEN -AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

SECTION 10.1 THESE BY-LAWS MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME ON AS NEEDED BASIS BY RESOLUTION IN WRITING, PRESENTED AT A MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, READ AND APPROVED BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE AT TWO CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS AT WHICH A QUORUM IS PRESENT AT EACH MEETING.

THE ORIGINAL BYLAWS OF THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL WAS ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE INITIAL ORGANIZERS HELD ON MAY 21, 2001.

THE REVISED BYLAWS OF THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL WERE PRESENTED AT TWO COUNCIL MEETINGS WITH A QUORUM PRESENT AND ADOPTED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2015. THE ADOPTED REVISIONS WERE MADE TO SECTIONS 4.1, 6.1, AND 6.12.

THE REVISED BYLAWS OF THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL WERE PRESENTED AT TWO COUNCIL MEETINGS WITH A QUORUM PRESENT AND ADOPTED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE ON NOVEMBER 10, 2015. THE ADOPTED REVISIONS WERE MADE TO SECTIONS 5.4 AND 8.4.

THE REVISED BYLAWS OF THE INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL WERE PRESENTED AT TWO COUNCIL MEETINGS WITH A QUORUM PRESENT AND ADOPTED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE ON DECEMBER 10, 2015. THE ADOPTED REVISIONS WERE MADE TO SECTIONS 6.3, 6.11, AND 8.5.

FURTHER REVISIONS WERE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING OF THE SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL AND BOARD ON APRIL 30, 2024 WITH A QUORUM PRESENT. REVISIONS TO SECTIONS 2 (NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES CLARIFIED), 5.4, (VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL CHANGED FROM 9 TO 8, PAST PRESIDENT/AT-LARGE WILL CAST THE 9TH VOTE IN CASE OF A TIE), 8.1 (SECOND TUESDAY). WE ALSO CONTEMPLATED ADDING TO THE SECRETARY'S DUTIES: DIGITAL RECORDINGS KEPT FOR EXACTLY 90 DAYS, BUT DECIDED AGAINST IT. IN JANUARY 2025, WE CHANGED SECTION 6.8, THE TERMS OF SERVICE FOR BOARD

MEMBERS, IN ORDER TO HAVE RECURRING VACANCIES IN EVEN / ODD YEARS (NO 3-YEAR TERMS). REVISIONS WERE REVIEWED AGAIN AND ADOPTED AT A SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD MEETING ON _____.

DATE

Superneighborhood #13 Council

Non-profit: Precinct One CERT

Authorizing Signature _____ Date: _____
James Winston

Faith-based: Independence Heights Ministers Alliance

Authorizing Signature _____ Date: _____
Pastor Billy Williams

Authorizing Signature _____ Date: _____
Pastor Nathan Jenkins

Educational: Booker T. Washington High School

Authorizing Signature _____ Date: _____
Booster Club President Natasha Johnson

Business: Pruitt's In the Heights Mortuary

Authorizing Signature _____ Date: _____
Von Davis

Community Residents

Authorizing Signature _____ Date: _____
Edward Scott

Authorizing Signature _____ Date: _____
Mardie Hawkins-Archie

Authorizing Signature _____ Date: _____
Veronica Frausto

At-Large Member

Authorizing Signature _____ Date: _____
Mardie Paige