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From Your Council Member



Dear Residents of District D,

As we approach the end of the year and reflect on our past four years together, I am filled with immense pride in our journey through District D. This period marks a significant moment in our community. In my interactions across the district, I've had the honor of meeting many of you, hearing your stories, and understanding our shared challenges. These encounters have

profoundly deepened my commitment to serving our community with even greater dedication.

Yesterday, we experienced a procedural step in the City Council, involving an important ordinance for our Public Works department. This ordinance, which will be revisited for a vote next week, is essential for bringing about substantial improvements in our services. It represents a key part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of life in District D. While this procedural step has briefly delayed our vote, it has not dampened our enthusiasm or commitment to making positive changes in our community.

From nurturing our young leaders to supporting local businesses like Alfreda's Soul Food, every initiative we undertake is a step towards building a stronger, more vibrant community. We remain focused on public safety, community engagement, and ensuring accessible transportation.

As we look to the future, I am more committed than ever to continue advocating for you, ensuring that District D remains a district of destination – a place where progress and community thrive together. I am motivated to uphold the trust you've placed in me as your Council Member.

Thank you for your continuous support and trust in my service.

Warm regards,

Councilwoman Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member, District D

In this Issue

- 1. Welcome Message: Councilwoman Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz.
- 2. Spotlight & Tributes: Honoring and remembering community figures.
- 3. **District D Updates:** Latest policies and announcements.
- 4. **District Developments:** Updates on urban initiatives.
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- 6. **Public Safety & Community Resources:** Community well-being resources, transportation, free services, and support.
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- 8. Local Businesses: Spotlight on Alfreda's Soul Food and Mural.
- 9. **Announcements:** Important information & events in the district





Spotlights & Tributes



Meet BJ Holmes

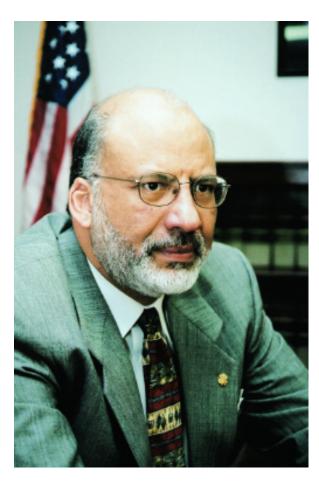
In the festive spirit of December, our Community Angel Spotlight beams proudly on BJ Holmes, a figure who embodies the joy and unity of the holiday season. BJ's journey with the Houston Parks & Recreation Department, spanning an impressive 34 years, has been marked by unwavering dedication and remarkable achievements.

BJ's ascent from a part-time role to overseeing seven community centers, including Sunnyside, Godwin, Alief, Marion, Stude, Fonde, and Judson Robinson Jr., is a testament to her exceptional leadership and commitment. Her ability to forge meaningful partnerships has greatly enriched our District D community, linking Houston Parks with numerous organizations and enhancing the lives of those we serve.

Even in retirement, BJ's passion for community service has not dimmed. She has been the driving force behind the Third Ward's and Judson Robinson Jr. Senior/Adult Line Dancers, a group that has added vibrancy and energy to various events throughout the year. These free line dancing classes, coordinated by BJ since 2007, are more than just a fun activity; they are a hub for socializing, staying fit, and enjoying the camaraderie that defines our community.

As we celebrate this holiday season, let's take a moment to appreciate the extraordinary contributions of BJ Holmes. Her dedication to keeping our community moving, grooving, and socially connected is a gift that keeps on giving. BJ Holmes, our Community Angel, continues to be a beacon of light and joy in District D.

Remembering Laurence "Larry" J. Payne



District D and the wider Houston community mourn the loss of a truly exceptional leader, **Laurence "Larry" J. Payne.** Larry's unwavering dedication to public service and his unique ability to unite people from diverse backgrounds were hallmarks of his remarkable career. He collaborated effectively with a wide range of stakeholders, including elected officials, non-profits, businesses, and educational institutions, significantly contributing to the well-being and progress of our community.

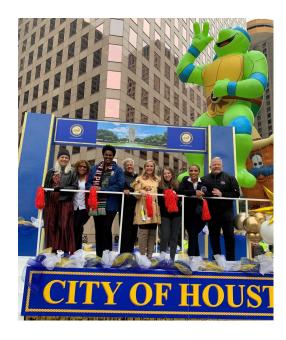
A notable highlight of Larry's illustrious career was his role as the chair of the 2002 NAACP National Convention in Houston. This pivotal event was not just a success in terms of organization and attendance; it was instrumental in shining a spotlight on the challenges faced by the African American community, fostering a national dialogue on social and economic equity.

Moreover, Larry's leadership as the Chair of **Mayor Sylvester Turner**'s Task Force on Policing Reform was instrumental in shaping a more just and inclusive police force. His deep understanding of community policing principles was key in enhancing the relationship between law enforcement and community members, a legacy that continues to benefit our city.

The impact of Larry Payne on District D and beyond was profound. His visionary approach and commitment to bridging divides have left an indelible mark. While we deeply feel his absence, Larry's spirit and the path he charted remain guiding lights for our collective efforts towards a more united, just, and prosperous future.

District D Updates

The 74th Annual Houston Thanksgiving Day Parade







The 74th annual Houston Thanksgiving Day Parade was an exceptional event that resonated with Houstonians citywide, particularly highlighting the spirit of District D and the esteemed Texas Southern University.

Councilwoman Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, along with her Council Colleagues, participated vibrantly, adorning a festive float that reflected the community's energy and spirit. Despite the rain, the parade became a jubilant celebration, marked by colorful floats and uplifting music, uniting people from all over Houston.

A major highlight was the exhilarating performance by Texas Southern University's Ocean of Soul marching band, a source of immense pride for District D and a high point of the parade. Mayor Sylvester Turner, in his role as the grand marshal and marking his final year as mayor, shared a heartfelt

message of thanks to the city, adding a meaningful dimension to the festivities. This parade was not just a Thanksgiving tradition, but a vibrant display of the unity and shared spirit of all Houstonians.

Greenways Enhancing Our Community: District D Welcomes Sims Bayou Expansion











The recent expansion of **Sims Bayou Greenway** heralds a new era of urban green space and connectivity for District D, celebrated with a special ribbon-cutting event. The ceremony, led by **Beth White** of the Houston Parks Board, showcased the collaborative effort behind these significant additions to our district's landscape.

Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, along with Mayor Sylvester Turner and Council Member Robert Gallegos, emphasized the importance of these new segments in enriching the quality of life for District D residents. Their speeches highlighted how these developments not only beautify our neighborhoods but also promote health, wellness, and community cohesion.

Chris Carroll from the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Sonny Garza of the Gulfgate Redevelopment Authority/TIRZ 8, and Paul Lock from CenterPoint Energy were recognized for their pivotal roles in realizing this vision. Their contributions underscore a collective commitment to creating accessible, sustainable, and enjoyable outdoor spaces in our community.

These enhancements to Sims Bayou Greenway represent more than just pathways; they symbolize District D's dedication to fostering a greener, more interconnected urban environment. As these trails open up new avenues for recreation and transport, they also weave together the fabric of our community, connecting people and nature in meaningful ways.

As District D continues to thrive, these greenway expansions stand as a testament to our collective effort in building a more vibrant and sustainable future for all residents

Councilwoman Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Applauds BMI's Young Leaders











The Beatrice Mayes Institute (BMI) was abuzz with excitement on November 30, 2023, as it hosted the Character Building Ceremony, a pivotal event for the young leaders of District D. Councilwoman Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, in her empowering address to the student body, expressed her deep pride and honor in engaging with these future leaders. Her presence and words

underscored the importance of their commitment to leadership and community service.

This ceremony was a special occasion, not just for BMI but for the entire District D community, as it celebrated the induction of the new student council. The council, led by President Amaryah Lewis-Longoria, Vice President Kayden Ferbos, and their peers, demonstrated the essence of young leadership and the potential to positively shape their environment. Councilwoman Evans-Shabazz commended these students, including Recording Secretary Lou Gill, Corresponding Secretary Kaliyah Babino, Treasurer McKenzie Ford, Parliamentarian Aaron Roberson, Historian Kenneth Blackmond, and representatives from each grade, for their dedication. These young individuals, through their roles and actions, not only bring immense pride to District D but also serve as inspiring examples of the positive impact youth can have in their communities.

District D's Good Neighbor Program: Fostering

Community Strength and Opportunity



Under the leadership of Councilwoman Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, District D has seen the remarkable success of the Good Neighbor Program. Initiated in partnership with the Department of Neighborhoods and Career Recovery Resources (CRR), this program has been a true embodiment of community support, providing free lawn care services to 41 residents, encompassing seniors, veterans, and disabled community members.

More than just a service initiative, the Good Neighbor Program has been a catalyst for employment within District D. By collaborating with CRR, it has opened avenues for local residents to gain essential work experience, fostering both their personal and professional development.

Councilwoman Evans-Shabazz's commitment to the community is further reinforced with the recent allocation of \$6,000 to this program. This funding is a testament to her dedication to not only maintaining but also expanding this valuable service. The Good Neighbor Program stands as a symbol of our district's resilience, unity, and continuous growth, mirroring the Councilwoman's vision for a thriving and interconnected community.

Complete Communities Update

We are thrilled to spotlight the Fall 2023 participants of the Complete Communities Initiative from District D. This program is a testament to our commitment to fostering inclusive, well-rounded growth across our neighborhoods. These individuals have shown outstanding dedication to enhancing our community:

- Aliyyah Bey
- Desmond Davis
- Cecilia Lee
- Victoria Spring Luddington
- Celene Vasquez
- · Leroy West Jr.

Their contributions are vital to our ongoing efforts to build a more connected, resilient, and vibrant District D. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and look forward to the positive impact they will undoubtedly bring to our community.









Collaborative Efforts for Water Bill Reform: 9 Key Ordinances and District D's Role

As a steadfast advocate for District D, Councilwoman Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz has been instrumental in responding to Houston's water bill crisis. Working in collaboration with Mayor Sylvester Turner, who has proposed nine vital ordinances to ease the burden of high water bills, Councilwoman Evans-Shabazz has taken a leadership role in ensuring these changes directly benefit our community. The ordinances include:

- Removing the restriction on assistance for multiple water leaks.
- Promoting the repair of private leaks.
- Increasing credits for excess wastewater charges.
- Introducing discounts for opting into electronic billing.

Crucially, Councilwoman Evans-Shabazz, with Councilmembers Amy Peck and Mary Nan Huffman, introduced a key amendment within these ordinances. This amendment, particularly relevant to District D residents, ensures no residential customer is billed retroactively for more than three months. This significant change, now possible due to Proposition A, reflects Councilwoman Evans-Shabazz's dedication to protecting and advocating for the interests of our community.

For more details on these ordinances and the essential amendment championed by Councilwoman Evans-Shabazz, please visit. This is a pivotal moment for District D, and your informed participation is invaluable

Click The Link Below



Water Bill Relief - Ordinance

RYDE Continues in 2024 for District D Residents



By Elizabeth Sander, Staff writer









Most Popular

1. Houston's 25 most powerful



Houston Chronicle Ryde Article

Great news for District D! Our partnership with Evolve Houston and the City of Houston has successfully secured funding to continue the RYDE shuttle service in the Third Ward until July 2024. This free local shuttle is an

essential service for our community, and we're thrilled to announce its extension

RYDE: An Eco-Friendly and Life-Changing Service

- Sustainable Transit: RYDE is not just a convenience; it's an environmentally friendly solution that aligns with our commitment to sustainability.
- Connecting Communities: The shuttle links residents to crucial services and resources, fostering stronger community ties and providing easier access to daily necessities.

Impact on Lives:

- Enhancing Accessibility: Whether it's getting to medical appointments, shopping centers, or community events, RYDE makes it easier for residents, especially those with limited mobility, to navigate our district.
- Empowering Residents: By reducing transportation barriers, RYDE empowers residents to engage more actively in our community and access opportunities they might otherwise miss.

Stay Informed and Get Involved:

- Discover More: Learn about how RYDE is transforming lives and check out the shuttle routes and schedules. Click here for more information.
- Share Your Experience: We'd love to hear how RYDE has impacted you! Share your stories and feedback with us.

RYDE is a testament to what we can achieve through collaboration and a shared vision for a connected, accessible, and sustainable community. Let's continue to support and make the most of this invaluable service.

Houston Police Chief Finner Kicks Off Holiday Safety Campaign

As we enter the holiday season, it's crucial to stay mindful of our safety and security. Houston Police Chief Finner has launched a Holiday Safety Campaign, focusing on keeping our District D community safe during this bustling time.

What the Campaign Covers:

- **Proactive Safety Tips:** Learn how to protect your home, shop safely, and navigate holiday traffic.
- Community Collaboration: Engaging with local law enforcement to enhance our understanding of public safety measures.

• **Educational Resources:** Providing valuable information on how to enjoy a secure holiday season.

Get Informed:

- More Details: Discover comprehensive safety guidelines and tips. <u>Click here for more details</u>.
- Chief Finner's Address: Watch a special video message from Chief Finner about the campaign. Click here to watch the video below

•

This campaign is a testament to our city's dedication to ensuring a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Councilwoman Evans-Shabazz encourages every resident of District D to participate and stay informed. Your safety is our top priority.



District Developments

Responding to Water Bill Concerns Councilwoman Evans-Shabazz Takes Action

Houston city leaders take action on water billing issues following KPRC 2 DRAINED investigations (click2houston.com)

City Council members add water bill corrections to Houston City Council agenda (Houston Chronicle)

Understanding Your Water Bill A Guide for Houston District D Residents

Houston Public Works (HPW) Commitment

Accurate Billing: Over 500,000 meters with 99.2% accuracy.

Manual Review: Ensuring discrepancies are addressed.

For bill disputes and inquiries.

Need Help? Contact Customer Account Services (CAS)

Phone: 713.371.1400

For bill disputes and inquiries.

Call 311: Get a Service Request Number (SR#)

Contact District D Office: Provide your SR# for HPW follow-up.

For Immediate Assistance

Call 311: Get a Service Request Number (SR#)

Contact District D Office: Provide your SR# for HPW follow-up.

Key City Ordinances

- Back-Billing (Ordinance 47-65)
- Basic Service Charges (Ordinances 47-61, 47-63)

Ordinance Details and Applications

- Unusually Large Bill Adjustment (Ordinance 47-75): Apply within six months of receiving the bill. <u>Application Link</u>
- Leak Adjustment (Ordinance 47-74): Apply within six months of repair. <u>Application Link</u>
- **Leak Balance Remaining** (Ordinance 47-74-1): Adjustments for qualified residents.
- Exceptional Circumstance Adjustment (Ordinance 47-75.1): One credit adjustment in a 24-month period for exceptional circumstances. <u>Application Link</u>

Billing Insights

- **Monthly Billing Cycle:** Based on geographical location.
- Estimated Bills: Adjusted in the next cycle.

Financial Assistance through Baker Ripley

Administers federal funds for LIHWAP. No repayment required. Supports Neighbors in Harris, Brazoria, and Galveston Counties.

Water Bill Assistance Eligibility Requirements

- Meet the income requirements. Provide proof of identity for all household members with a valid Texas Driver License.
- Provide proof of Citizenship or legal residency for at least one household member.
- Provide proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members 18 years of age and older.
- Provide a copy of current water bill showing the front and back.

For more Information and the application to apply click the link below.

Baker Ripley Utility Assistance

Home for The Holiday Celebrating Housing Progress in District D

This Holiday Season, we reflect on the comfort and community that 'home' represents. In District D, we're dedicated to enhancing housing stability and affordability, ensuring every resident has a place to call home. Our recent initiatives have focused on expanding affordable housing options and revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering a sense of belonging and community spirit. As we celebrate this season of gratitude, let's cherish our progress and look forward to continued growth and prosperity in our district.

Project Progress: Sandrock Station 12100 MLK Blvd, 77048 (District D)



October 2, 2023

Project Progress: NHH at Reed Road 2605 Reed Rd. 77051 (District D)



Update: Temenos Place 1703 Gray Houston, 77003 (District D)



Update: Gala at MacGregor New Construction 102-120 Carson St., Houston, 77004 (District D)



Project Progress: Park Vista at El Tesoro 6498 Selinsky, 77098 (District D)



Community Engagement

Town halls & local activities in District D



GREATER SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

Join the Greater Southeast Management District - Houston Southeast at the December Board of Directors Meeting and State of the District. Come hear about the accomplishments and vision for FY2024.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023

RSVP



by December 6th

To RSVP please scan the QR Code or email programs@houstonse.org to confirm your attendance.

One Emancipation Center 3131 Emancipation Avenue Houston, Texas 77004

4:00 PM - Board of Director's Meeting 6:00 PM - State of the District





L MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK MINNETEX SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD

76 & 77



THURSDAY
DECEMBER 14,2023



MEETINGS START AT: 6PM-7:30PM

OREM 7/3 ORE 7/7048 WILLARD VILLE ALLEON FUQUA SCHURMER ** CARTER

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

"Building a Stronger Future: A community meeting to review and approve plans necessary to reactivate our Super Neighborhoods 76 & 77. Join us to be apart of the solutions for our neighborhood.





LOCATION: SUNNYSIDE MSC | 4410 REED RD.

superneighborhood76@gmail.com | https://linktr.ee/SN76



Join the Sunnyside Redevelopment Authority and TIRZ #26 for a public Town Hall Meeting to discuss park amenities, the community center, and how to build the park of the future.

Sunnyside Park Design and Master Implementation Plan

Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, December 19th 6:00 pm Sunnyside Health & Multi-Service Center

4410 Reed Rd. Houston, TX 77051

Or join us virtually by scanning the QR code or via www.tinyurl.com/sunnysideparktownhall





2ND ANNUAL Holiday TOY DRIVE

DEC. 17, 2022 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

11903 Eastex Fwy, Hou, TX 77039

Family Activities, Food Trucks, Bike Raffle, Face Painting, The Grinch, Guest Speakers, & More



More Details and RSVP



Toy Donation Amazon List

Gold

\$1,000

- Company name and logo on all promotional materials
- · Social media shoutout before and after the event
- Table at the event for marketing and promotion
- Company name listed on the partner section of the FCAC website for 1 year
- Digital Advertising on all virtual screens for the duration of the event (estimated in value at \$300)
- 15 min of stage time to share about your company
- Four food truck tickets



Silver

\$500

- Company name and logo on all promotional materials
- Social media shoutout before and after the event
- Table at the event for marketing and promotion
- Company name listed on the partner section of the FCAC website for six months
- Digital Advertising on all virtual screens for the duration of the event (estimated in value at \$300)
- Four food truck tickets



Bronze

\$250

- Company name and logo on all promotional materials
- Social media shoutout one week after the event
- Table at the event for marketing and promotion
- Company name listed on the partner section of the FCAC Website for one month
- · Three food truck tickets



Partner

\$40

- Company name and logo on all promotional materials
- Social media shoutout before and after the event
- Table at the event for marketing and promotion



Contact

For more information and to become a sponsor or partner,

please contact us: 832-460-3766 adam@fcactexas.org www.fcactexas.org



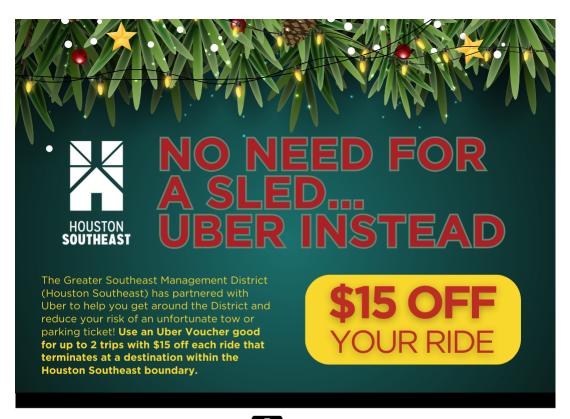


Public Safety & Community Resources

Get Around Safely & Hassle Free in District D with Discounted Ride Share

In District D, we're always looking for ways to improve the quality of life for our residents. With the introduction of a discounted ride share program facilitated by the Greater Southeast Management District, we're taking a significant step towards this goal. This program not only offers a safe and convenient travel option within our community but also encourages responsible driving practices. By using this service, you're choosing a safer way to travel, particularly during nights out or festive occasions.

Additionally, this ride share initiative makes it easier for everyone to support and enjoy the local businesses in District D, enhancing our community's economic vitality and vibrancy.





*Limited Availability. No cash value. Maximum discount of \$10 per redemption. Maximum of 2 trips/orders per account. To redeem a discount, Uber Voucher code r3irt.00UXXZ must be applied to the Uber app's payment section or Uber Eats App prior to requesting the intended trip/order.

Uber Voucher valid 11/16/2023, 1:00 a.m., through 12/31/2023, 1:00 a.m. Uber Voucher is only valid for rides requested/orders placed using applicable Uber App. Taxes, fees, and tips will be covered provided that the value of the Uber Voucher is greater than the total order amount. Offer is non-transferable, subject to change or cancellation. Issues involving redemption and/or use of the Uber Voucher code should be directed to Houston Southeast at programs@houstonse.org

www.HoustonSE.org

YOUR District at Work!

Enter Promo Code:

r3IrLOOUXXZ





YES To A Clean SUNNYSIDE Community



Powered By



IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING

CALL
HOUSTON POLICE
713-525-2728
OR
CRIMESTOPPERS
713-222-TIPS
#onecleanhouston

Illegal Dumping: Report Violations

Illegal Dumping continues to be problematic in District D. We need your help to ensure our community stays beautiful. Please alert the District D office of any sightings of illegal dumping.

Two-Step Process

- Please call 311 to report your concern and get an Service Request after receiving the SR # number- ask to be transferred to the District D office
- 2. **Call 832 393-3001** to report the SR# number
- 3. or **send an email** explaining the concern and provide the SR# number.

Employment Opportunities



Local Business Spotlight



HUNGRY? WE'RE OPEN!!





CATERING@ALFREDASSOULFOOD.COM



NEW LOCATION!!

4530 GRIGGS ROAD-D HOUSTON, TEXAS 77021

10:00 A - 6:00 P THURSDAY - SUNDAY

713.528.0020

W W W . A L F R E D A S S O U L F O O D . C O M







District D Holiday Fixins Food Distribution



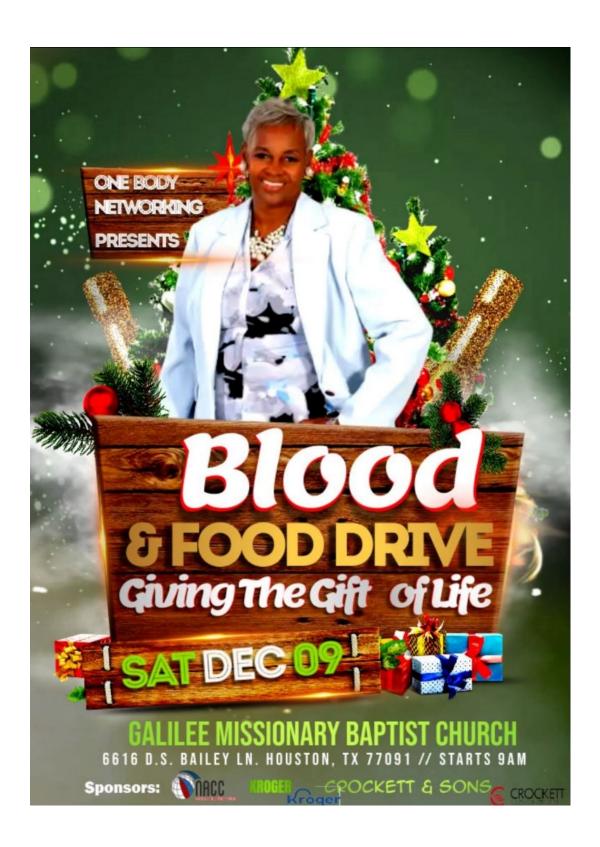
December 16th
10am - 2pm
Johnson Neighborhood Library
3517 Reed Rd Houston TX 77051
Contact the District D Office: 832-393-3001















Emancipation Park
3018 Emancipation Houston TX 77004

Pictures with Santa
 Free Toy Giveaway
 Kids Winter Wonderland
 Christmas Tree Lighting & Much More!



Legacy Building Now and Beyond



Legacy Building Resource Fair and Transfer on Death Deed Clinic



Transfer on Death Deed Clinic Participants MUST FIRST GET PRE-ASSESSED

To Get Pre-Assessed for a Free or Low-Cost Transfer on Death Deed and Estate Plan see link below!

https://forms.office.com/g/Ft9d9PhWSF



TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED CLINIC AND RESOURCE FAIR

- *Sunday, 1:30 pm 4:30 pm, December 10, 2023: New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 9126 Jensen Dr. Houston, Tx 77093
- *Saturday, 9:00 AM 12:00 PM, December 16, 2023: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Hall, 4600 Reed Rd, Houston, Tx 77051

Sponsored by
The Mayor's Office of Complete Communities
With Support from
The African American Mayors Association

Hosted by
City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods
Office of Neighborhood Engagement

ALL EVENTS ARE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND NOT LEGAL ADVICE























Coffee and Conversation

Please Join Us For An In Person and Virtual

Tuesday December 12, 2023 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Hall 4600 Reed Road Houston, Texas 77051

Let's have a Discussion over Coffee on Legacy Building Now and Beyond and what is a Transfer on Death Deed and Why You Need It!!!



To Attend Virtually, Register at www.nrcdc.org

For Questions contact Mayra Hypolite, by email mayra.hypolite@houstontx.gov or call at 832-394-0701











PAPER AND SMALL ELECTRONICS ONLY (Please remove all paper & BINDER clips)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

ST. JOHNS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 2222 GRAY STREET HOUSTON, TX 77003

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

OLD SPANISH TRAIL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP







Enhanced Public Safety Services YOUR District at Work!

Shredding Vendor: Texas Security Shredding FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: 713-748-4679



Working together for economic growth and stronger communities.

To learn more visit www.dontdump.org

Stay Connected! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram





Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

City Hall Annex 900 Bagby, First Floor Houston, TX 77002

Telephone: (832) 393-3001 E-Mail: <u>districtd@houstontx.gov</u>





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