

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER

CHRIS HOLLINS, CITY CONTROLLER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Houston Controller's Office Earns National Honor for Opening City Finances to Residents

HOUSTON —For the first time, Houstonians can see a clear snapshot of the City's finances in plain language—and it's already earned national recognition.

The [City of Houston Controller's Office](#) has received the *Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting* from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The award recognizes Houston's inaugural *Popular Annual Financial Report* (PAFR), which breaks down the City's fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in a way that's accessible and easy to understand.

"This recognition affirms one of the priorities of my office – to put Houstonians at the center of City finances. Numbers alone don't make government accountable. People do. By making this information open and easy to understand, we're helping Houstonians hold their government to a higher standard. That's the kind of transparency our city deserves," said City Controller Chris Hollins.

The PAFR simplifies complex financial data into an easy-to-read format, giving residents a straightforward look at the City's financial position—without the jargon of traditional reports.

Houston also earned GFOA's *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Reports are evaluated by an independent panel for clarity, creativity, distribution, reader appeal, and overall quality.

"This report is about more than numbers on a page. It's about trust. For the first time, Houstonians can open a City report and actually see, in plain English, where their money is going. That matters because transparency and accountability work together to build a stronger Houston."

The Government Finance Officers Association serves more than 25,000 public finance professionals in the U.S. and Canada and promotes excellence in government finance through best practices, professional development, and research.

Houston's inaugural *Popular Annual Financial Report* is available on the [City Controller's Office website](#).

ABOUT CITY OF HOUSTON CONTROLLER'S OFFICE: Established in 1903, the City of Houston Controller's Office is the cornerstone of financial oversight and accountability for America's fourth-largest city. With a mission to uphold Houston's fiscal integrity and protect residents' tax dollars, the office oversees a broad spectrum of the City's financial operations, including its budget, investments, and debts. Committed to transparency and fiscal responsibility, the Controller's Office is key to maintaining the economic vitality of Houston, contributing to its status as a thriving metropolis for its diverse community.

ABOUT CONTROLLER CHRIS HOLLINS: Chris Hollins, serving as Houston's City Controller since January 2024, brings a dynamic approach to City governance and financial management. With a rich background in legal practice and management consulting, coupled with innovative leadership as Harris County Clerk, Hollins is dedicated to enhancing the city's fiscal practices and community engagement. Educated at Morehouse College, Yale Law School, and Harvard Business School, Hollins's commitment to accountability and service excellence drives his mission to build a financially resilient Houston. Residing in the Third Ward with his family, his work is deeply informed by his strong community ties.

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