

STATEMENT

OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER, CHRIS HOLLINS



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Statement from Chris Hollins on the Ordinance Amending Chapter 34 — Immigration Procedures

In Houston, our priorities are straightforward. We want safe neighborhoods. We want local businesses to thrive. And we want a city where people trust that government will treat them fairly and follow the law. That's what this ordinance is about.

At its core, it makes clear that law enforcement cannot extend a stop or detention without a lawful basis. That's not politics—that's the Constitution. And being clear about that protects residents' rights while giving officers the guidance they need to do their jobs the right way. But this is also about how we keep Houston safe and strong.

Public safety depends on trust. When people feel safe calling the police, reporting crimes, or cooperating as witnesses, we solve more cases and prevent more harm. When that trust breaks down—when people worry that any interaction could lead to something beyond what the law requires—they disengage. And that makes all of us less safe.

The same is true for our economy. Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the country, and that diversity powers our workforce, our small businesses, and our growth. When policies create fear and uncertainty, it doesn't just affect individuals—it disrupts neighborhoods, slows business activity, and weakens the very engine that drives our city. We've seen what works. When people trust the system, they participate in it. They show up, they engage, and they help us build something stronger together.

This ordinance reflects that reality. We can follow the law. We can support law enforcement. And we can do it in a way that keeps our communities safe, keeps our economy moving, and respects the Constitution. That's not a trade off. That's how Houston works.

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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.