

February NEWSLETTER



Friends and neighbors,

February was short a month, but it was packed. We celebrated Black History Month, love and the start of the Houston Rodeo. Our constituents across the city have continued to inform my office of issues and concerns and my staff has worked with the appropriate department to resolve the issue or informed the district office of any concerns.

At the beginning of the month, I returned to Dubai for one of the largest health conferences in the world to represent the Texas Medical Center as well as continue discussions around trade. In the global economy, Houston is well positioned to expand its international trade portfolio. This month, we also celebrated Black History Month with many organizations, and I honored my grandmother's legacy. Towards the end of the month, we got ready to Rodeo!

Please continue to read on to see how At-Large 4 helped constituents across the city. We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Letitia Plummer".

Council Member Letitia Plummer, DDS
At-Large 4

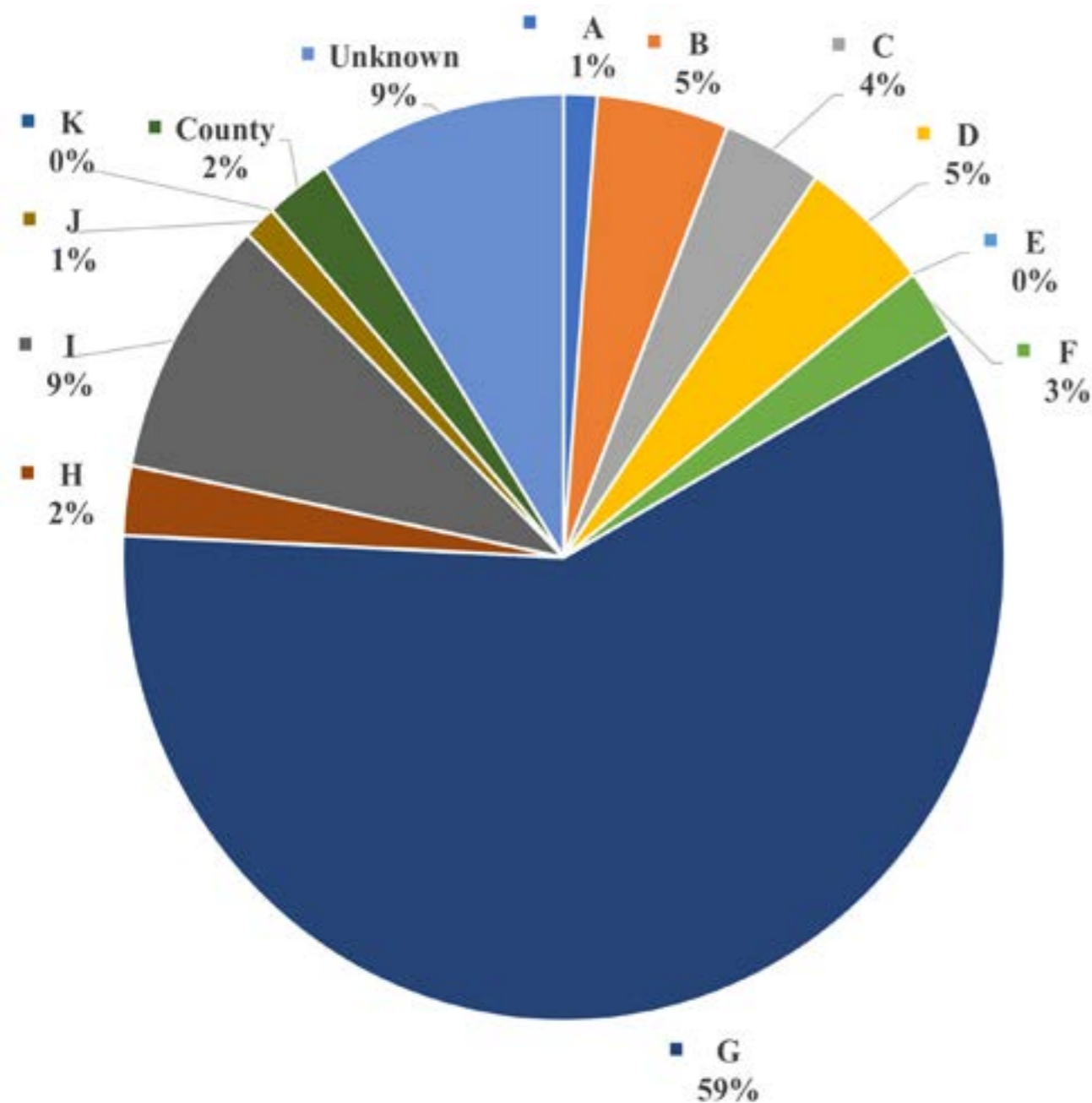
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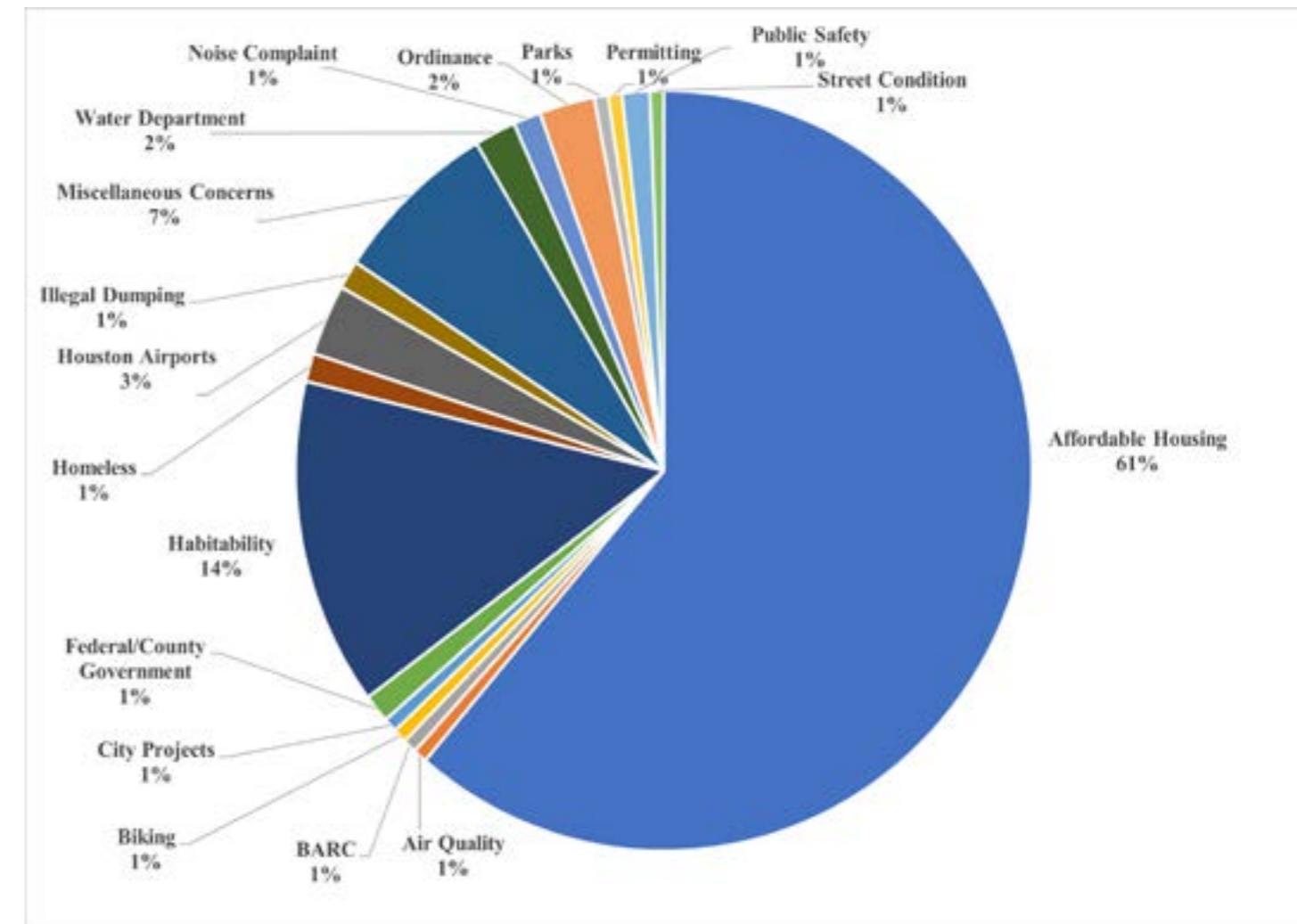
AT-LARGE 4 OFFICE: CONSTITUENT CONCERNS

Breakdown by District

This month the majority of the constituents that engaged with the At-Large 4 office were from District G.



Breakdown by Issue



This month the possibility of an affordable housing project was a priority concern for over half of the constituents that engaged with At-Large 4. Habitability concerns was the next priority issue.

HABITABILITY: TIMBER RIDGE APARTMENTS

For the last couple of years, tenants from the Timber Ridge Apartments have complained about serious habitability concerns.

Texas Organizing Project, a tenant advocacy group first alerted my office about this apartment complex in December 2021. The complaints at that

time included no air conditioning during the summer in some units, no heating in the winter, rats, and cockroaches in all the apartments despite tenants being charged monthly for the service, extra charges for services, unclear lease agreements, retaliation, threats of reports to ICE.



Office, Houston Public Works, Houston Health Department, Houston Fire Department, Houston Police Department, and the City Attorney's Office. Tenants saw improvements for a while.

Conditions remained the same in the apartment complex for several months, despite tenants frequently contacting the leasing office.

In July 2022, Tenants decided to seek an audience with Mayor Turner and City Council to air their grievances at Public Session. Tenants complained of a lack of response from manage-

ment on a wide variety of issues from cockroaches, rats to flooding and sewage back up. I reiterated the need for an ordinance that would hold landlords accountable.

Mayor Turner ultimately investigated the complaints by touring the complex himself and forming a strike team of senior leadership from the Mayor's

Tenants Displaced by February Fire

A couple of weeks ago, Texas Organizing Project contacted my office stating a fire from a landlord owned faulty stove had burned down several units. In total, sixteen families were impacted. Some tenants lost everything while others managed to salvage some items.



They all needed assistance with resources.

Management was not responsive with assisting with relocating tenants or connecting them to resources. My staff connected with the tenants to understand their situation and needs. We

informed the Council District office, District I, about the situation so that our offices could share resources.

My staff also engaged other Council offices who assisted with providing much needed clothing to families who lost everything in the fire. Additionally, my staff helped tenants relocate, assisted with housing applications, connected tenants to case managers and to non-profit organizations. This is ongoing and my team is continuing to work with tenants and organizations.

Why Call 311?

It helps council offices and city departments track the number of concerns and type of concerns for an apartment complex. For severe habitability concerns, a city inspector will be sent to the location to issue citations to the landlord. Track your service requests online or ask your district or At-Large office to assist with tracking.

Tenant Education Program

Visit: www.houstontx.gov/council/4/tenant-education.html

Documents available in English, Spanish and Korean

LESSONS FROM BLACK HISTORY: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future

February is Black history month and Houston is rich with Black history. From the neighborhoods of Independence Heights and Acres Homes to the cemeteries in Fifth Ward, Black history is woven into the fabric of Houston's past. As such, many families have interesting stories to share about their past.

My grandmother, Grams, was the Matriarch of our family. As a highly educated woman, she believed in the power of education, the doors it could open

and the opportunities it could present. As a child, from her own grandmother she heard stories of how the most basic form of education had helped her escape the shackles of enslavement.

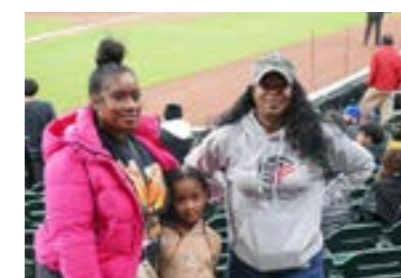
Grams was a teacher and guidance counselor at Wheatley High School in Fifth Ward where she dedicated her time to uplifting students, finding scholarships, trade school and internship opportunities and creating a path leading to success for her students. It was in

her honor that this Black History Month, I supported and uplifted organizations that provided opportunities, educational or other, to students and youth.



A Kinder HSVPA: Wiz Emerald City Experience

I attended a pre-show reception illuminating Black culture and arts through green-colored lenses with a special guest presentation from Olly Sholotan (Theatre '15) co-starring as Carlton in the Bel-Air tv series (produced by Will Smith), and live student performances. Proceeds from the event were applied to Black student artists funding for summer intensive training and college scholarships.



TSU Day

Texas Southern University was honored at City Hall as was President Crumpton-Young. With its long history of serving students pre-segregation, TSU is a treasure trove of Black history. Many Council Members have a connection with TSU in some form or other so having TSU and Dr. Crumpton Young recognized at City Hall made all of us proud.

Houston Astros Foundation and Cactus Jack Foundation: HBCU Classic

Houston Astros Foundation provided my office with tickets to Cactus Jack HBCU Classic, the inaugural nine-game tournament to inspire more Black youth and motivate them to the path of professional baseball. We shared those tickets with three youth organizations so that they could take them to these games.

This was a golden opportunity for youth to also see HBCU baseball in action.

Meaningful Pioneers

This organization serves on youth in underserved communities and guides young leaders down the path to success. Learn more here: www.meaningfulpioneers.org

Change Happens

Change Happens! is a nonprofit that transforms the lives of families and children in high-risk communities of the Gulf Coast Region 6. Learn more here: www.changehappenstx.org

Southeast Little League

This is a baseball/softball league in the Houston Astros Youth Academy

HOUSTON: A City of Opportunities

In the last few months, I have visited the United Arab Emirates twice, specifically Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Houston and Abu Dhabi have been sister cities since 2002. The official city-to-city relationships are supported by the Mayor's Office and volunteer associations to promote people-to-people diplomacy and encourage citizens to develop mutual trust and understanding through commercial, cultural, educational, and humanitarian exchanges and interactions.



ful local economic development policies are multi-faceted. Not only do they identify and utilize the city's competitive advantage to function the local economy but are also used to attract global opportunities. As the 4th largest city in the United States, with a GDP of \$490 Billion, a formidable port and two international airports, Houston has the infrastructure for international business. Additionally, the Greater Houston Partnership is connected to a global network of economic development organizations promoting international trade and investment through the Houston World Trade Association.



As a city leader, I am always looking for opportunities to promote Houston and find strategic ways to strengthen our local economy. Success-

When I visited the UAE at the end of 2022, there was much interest from many UAE sectors in partnering with Houston. I met with many ministers and departments who were impressed with our medical centers, our higher education institutions, our renewable energy, and our port and wanted to explore partnership opportunities in our region. Upon my return, I met with several organization to discuss potential opportunities.

In February, I returned to Dubai to attend Arab Health, an international conference for the world's medical leaders and where 700,000 healthcare professionals convene. I had the honor of representing Texas Medical Center and presenting to renowned leaders and organizations some of the leading programs that TMC offers and the possibilities in healthcare innovations that would be accessible to them.

Since my return, I have been in further discussion with different organizations and entities on developing partnerships that would bring lucrative investments and jobs for our region.



Council Member Letitia Plummer

FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE



I spoke at City Council about illegal dumping. I asked the Mayor about looking into root causes and reasons why people do this in addition to fining ways to deter people from illegal dumping.

Houston is the most diverse city in the United States, and immigration has contributed greatly to its growth and diversity. Amaanah does a tremendous job in helping refugee and immigrant families. With a compassionate approach to assimilation, Amaanah offers relief, education, mentorship, and athletic programs. I met with CEO Jida Nabulsi to discuss ways we could work together and support their mission.



I had a great time at the Biggest Picnic in Texas and the opening of the Kinder Land Bridge and Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Prairie. It was fun day for many families.



I had a great time celebrating the 98th Anniversary and Annual Winter Ball for the EL DORADO SOCIAL CLUB. The club has a very interesting history that is proudly shared by its members.



It was an absolute honor to visit the Faris Foundation Art studio at the Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center. The center was designed as a special place for patients to create art. The concept was borne from Asha Virani's personal experience and is a symbol of hope and courage.



This month City Council voted on resolutions to support affordable housing in various parts of the city. As an advocate for affordable housing, I whole heartedly supported the projects. Our city is in need of affordable housing and these projects are extremely important to create equity in Houston.

It is always a great pleasure catching up with our local businesses. In this meeting I learned more about their public safety concerns and how this was impacting their business.



I made opening remarks at the Rose River Memorial, an art installation commemorating the 12000 plus lives lost to COVID-19 and spoke to family members who lost loved ones. We listened as they shared special moments from their lives.

Its Rodeo time, which mean cook off, parades and horses! I had such a great time at the cook off and then riding a horse at the parade the next day. This is one of my favorite parts of the whole Rodeo experience.



I am grateful to the Apache Corporation for the Tour De Houston 2023 which raises funds for reforestations. This year I rode with over 3000 people which included many friends and fellow Houstonians.



At-Large 4 Community Impact

- Attended the ground breaking for affordable housing in Midtown for those experiencing homelessness
- Reported to the permitting department, properties that violated City of Houston building codes
- Met with GLO representatives to address concerns of residents in the Homeowner Assistance Program regarding the reconstruction of their homes. GLO reviewed HUD guidelines and outlines some of their concerns.
- Toured the new Navigation Center in District B
- Attended the Black History Month Wakanda Forever celebration at Chelsea Place with seniors dressed in Kente, honoring their African heritage
- Met with several non-profit organizations to provide constituents with resources
- Attended the Red, Bred and Led Leukemia and Lymphoma Society event to raise awareness
- Assisted several non-profit organizations with projects for the community
- Enquired with several city departments to respond to constituent queries
- Attended the grand opening of an affordable senior facility

- Celebrated TSU Day with the City of Houston
- Tracked 311 tickets
- Addressed illegal dumping at several locations
- Made site visits to apartment complexes to provide assistance




At-Large 4 Upcoming Event

SAVE THE DATE!

Fifth Ward Cancer Cluster Collaborative Roundtable and Townhall

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
6 - 8 PM**

Special Guest:

Dr. Stephanie Miles-Richardson
 MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SPONSORS:

- MAXWELLO DENTAL
- MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
- BULLARD CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE
- IMPACT
- COCO

The location has yet to be determined. If you would like an update about this event, please reach out to atlarge4@houstontx.gov with the subject: Cancer Cluster Roundtable/Townhall Update. The event information is also on facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/events/528489676094439?mibextid=Z0UBBX>



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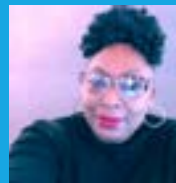
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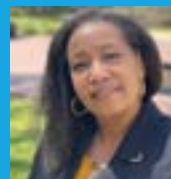
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