



SALLIE ALCORN
COUNCIL MEMBER

2025 YEAR

IN REVIEW

A NOTE

December 30, 2025

Friends,

Year six on city council is in the books!

My team and I put this end-of-year report together each year so you can get to know the work of your city a little better. It helps us recap and reflect on what's happened over the past twelve months and gives us direction for the next twelve.

Houstonians are well versed in what makes this city great and also what makes it sometimes not so great. The 2025 Kinder Houston Area Survey backs this up -- what's great: diversity, economic opportunity, vibrant culture (think food!) and activities. What's not so great: crime, traffic, infrastructure, economic inequality, extreme weather. I feel like a big part of my job is being a cheerleader for the great things, and doing what I can to make improvements to the not-so-great. I know I can't fix the weather, but I can work on measures to mitigate its damage!

Helping me in this work is my fantastic small, but mighty team. Jordan Frazier serves as my chief of staff and overall right-hand woman. Nothing falls through the cracks with Jordan. I dare you to find an email to which she has not responded or an issue she has not thoroughly vetted. Katie Shelton is deputy chief of staff, and her strong work ethic, organization and communication skills, and dedication to constituents keeps us on track. Our newest team member, Helen Chou, does an outstanding job representing me at meetings and events all over this city (I can't be everywhere)! Her fresh ideas and excellent research skills are a most welcome addition.

Remember, we all work for YOU, so let us know what we can work on to make your neighborhood, your business, and your community a little better. It's our honor, privilege, and JOY to serve you.

Here's hoping you have a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous, peaceful new year!



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

429

CONSTITUENT CASES

We understand residents usually call their district council member with specific city issues to resolve, but my staff and I are also here to be your advocates. This year we directly helped 219 constituents with a wide array of issues ranging from stray dogs to high water bills and everything in between. Please remember to call us if you need help from a city department.



EVENING PUBLIC SESSION

Since most Houstonians are at work during our usual 2 pm public session meetings on Tuesdays, Vice Mayor Pro Tem Peck and I joined Council Member Castillo's Proposition A proposal to add an evening meeting once a month. (As a reminder, Proposition A is the voter-approved measure which allows three council members to place an item on the city's legislative agenda.) Please take advantage of these evening meetings to come tell the mayor and council what is important to you! Your voice matters, and there is nothing more powerful than standing at the mic speaking to us in person. The people are the city!



FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS

Falls are the leading cause of injury for adults over 65. Every 11 seconds, an older adult ends up in an emergency room due to a fall. These are sad statistics, but most falls are preventable! On September 22, we hosted our annual Falls Prevention Awareness Day at the Sunnyside Health and Multi-Service Center. where nearly 150 seniors learned exercises, tools, and tips to prevent falls. Thank you to our partners – Case Physical Therapy, Houston Health Department, Harris County Area Agency on Aging, and BakerRipley. Our day was made possible by the generosity of our sponsors: Daikin, NRG Energy, Comcast, Legacy Community Health, IM Houston, AARP, and Memorial Hermann. Seniors enjoyed learning more about available resources from the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector, Molina Healthcare, Stay at Home Texas, and the Houston Food Bank.



IN MEMORY OF MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER

How lucky I was to serve with Mayor Sylvester Turner, an amazing and faithful public servant. His love for our city and its people knew no bounds. He always said he did not want Houston to be a city of haves and have nots, and he worked with passion every single day toward that goal. His many accomplishments for Houston will be chronicled far and wide, but for now, I just want to say that I am forever grateful for his leadership and friendship.

INFRASTRUCTURE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

INCREASED FUNDING FOR STREETS AND DRAINAGE

After the Texas Supreme Court denied Houston’s motion to appeal the [drainage lawsuit](#) in early 2025, Mayor Whitmire and his team settled with plaintiffs on a plan to phase in additional infrastructure funding, announced [April 16, 2025](#). The city previously contributed 57% of the voter-approved 11.8 cents in ad valorem tax toward street and drainage projects. This will increase to 67% in FY 2026 (an additional \$183 million) and 77% in FY 2027 (an additional \$214.8 million). The full 11.8 cent allotment to the Dedicated Drainage and Street Renewal Fund (DDSRF) will begin in FY 2028.

DERECHO/HURRICANE BERYL RECOVERY

The City of Houston will receive a \$314.6 million direct federal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support local disaster recovery and resilience efforts following the 2024 Derecho windstorm and Hurricane Beryl. These dollars are known as Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery 2024 (CDBG-DR24).

Initial CDBG-DR24 spending plans excluded home repair funding. After significant public support for housing assistance, the plan was amended and approved by city council in October. It includes over \$100 million for single- and multifamily housing, \$40 million in debris removal, \$101 million for a power generation resilience program, \$15 million for emergency response and public safety, and \$41 million in services for the unhoused.

GENERATORS

In June, the city launched its Power Protection Initiative to install permanent natural gas generators at essential facilities—multi-service centers, community centers, libraries, fire and police stations, and water facilities—ensuring power during disasters, and improving disaster response and recovery capabilities citywide. The \$200–\$250 million initiative is funded through CDBG-DR24, local capital funds, and state and federal grants.

STATE OF TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The City of Houston achieved [key victories](#) in the 89th legislative session that will strengthen safety, infrastructure, and services citywide. New bills enhance mental health services (SB 1164), increase penalties for illegal “bandit signs” (HB 3611), boost forensic analysis (SB 1620), and prioritize critical facilities during disaster power restoration (HB 1584). The city secured funding for vital projects, including \$100 million for Lynchburg Pump Station, \$50 million for Lake Houston dredging, \$17 million for 11 parks, \$10 million each for police vehicles and railroad grade crossings along Hirsch, and \$5 million for Spring Shadows drainage.

HOUSTON PERMITTING CENTER UPDATES

In July, the Houston Permitting Center (HPC) launched its 30-Day Residential Permit Pilot Program, offering pre-selected single-family projects a structured three-cycle review for greater predictability in the permitting process. In the first week, 68% of 29 projects achieved approval in two cycles. This initiative aims to manage high application volumes through scalable workflows.

At the October Government Operations Committee meeting, HPC provided an [update on staffing and staff augmentation contracts](#). Director Rudy Moreno reported significant staffing challenges, including 117 vacancies as of June 30, and a 12-18 month onboarding ramp for new staff. HPC is procuring a cost-of-service study—the first fee adjustment review since 2015.

BISSONNET CORRIDOR SAFE STREETS PROGRAM

Bissonnet is currently one of the city’s most dangerous roadways, listed in the High Injury Network due to its high number of fatal and serious injury crashes. In November, city council approved a grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Bissonnet Corridor Safe Streets Program. Funded largely by a \$28.8 million federal grant, the project aims for zero deaths and serious injuries on this critical corridor. The seven-mile rehabilitation from South Dairy Ashford to Hillcroft is expected to begin construction in Spring 2027.



NHHIP

The massive [North Houston Highway Improvement Project](#) (NHHIP) is underway, with key construction in the downtown area.

Current Construction: Segment 3 (Downtown Loop)

- This segment is transforming the downtown Houston freeway loop (I-45, I-69, I-10, and 288). I-45 will be rerouted to run parallel with I-69 and I-10 on downtown’s east side, decommissioning the Pierce Elevated. I-69 will expand to 10-12 lanes in each direction with two new express lanes. The project includes potential for a structural cap over a depressed segment of I-69 (Lamar to Commerce) that could host a park, pending non-TxDOT funding.

Future Segments (I-45 North): Planning is moving ahead for the northern sections of I-45, pending final funding:

- Segment 2 (I-10 to I-610): \$1.62 billion rebuild of I-45/I-610 interchange, construction anticipated around 2028.
- Segment 1 (I-610 to Beltway 8): The estimated construction start for this \$1.15 billion segment is 2032.
- Both segments will upgrade main lanes, frontage roads, and drainage. TxDOT may accelerate timelines with earlier funding.

COMPOSTING

Pumpkin composting returns! From October 25 to November 29, Houston residents were able to drop off pumpkins at the Reuse Warehouse or Westpark Recycling Center. Over 6 tons of pumpkins collected – a smashing success! All collected pumpkins are transformed into nutrient-rich compost to help grow a greener Houston.

The Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) is currently advertising a Community Composting Project partner. SWMD is seeking a composting vendor to place a collection drum at two drop-off facilities – Westpark Recycling Center and Reuse Warehouse. This partnership represents a small step the city can take to increase awareness and availability of composting services.



PORT HOUSTON

Port Houston and the Houston Ship Channel are massive economic engines, driving \$906 billion in economic impact across the U.S. and \$439 billion in the state, sustaining 3.37 million jobs nationwide, including 1.54 million jobs in Texas.

As the fastest growing port in the U.S., Port Houston is experiencing exceptional momentum, holding the No. 1 growth rate at 6.50% and ranking No. 5 in total TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units) with 3.3 million containers handled.

Nearly 99% of all TEUs moving through the port are transported via truck, underscoring its essential role in the national and regional supply chain.

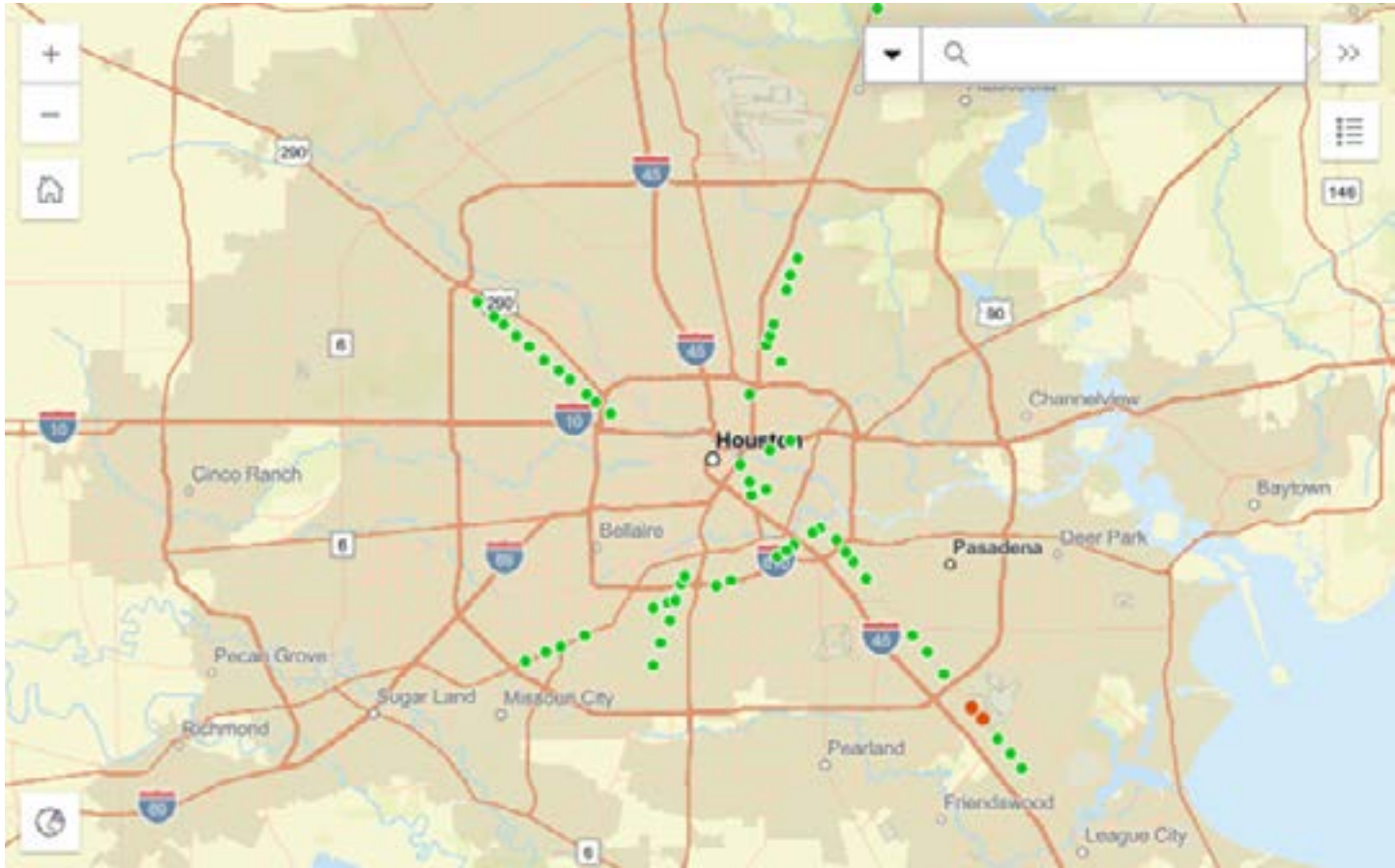
TRAINS

Houstonians know all too well the frustration and hassle of waiting at a stopped train when trying to get somewhere. Texas leads the nation in stopped train events, with Houston representing the biggest share of complaints in Texas. To help residents navigate rail crossings, the city launched [TRAIN WATCH](#), an interactive map providing real-time updates on crossings across the city.

Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Funding Senate Bill 1555, signed in May, created the Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Fund Program, allocating \$250 million for the next two years. The city is working with Houston Area Rail Transformation (HART) to prioritize projects for this funding.

West Belt Railroad Grade Separation Project This \$142 million project will bring major safety and mobility improvements to East Downtown and the Greater East End, building three grade-separated crossings and closing four street-level ones. This eliminates crash risks, reduces traffic delays, and lowers noise and air pollution caused by passing trains. Construction begins Spring 2029, completing Winter 2031.

Broadway Street Pedestrian Overpass A \$10 million legislative appropriation by Senator Carol Alvarado will fund a critical pedestrian overpass at Broadway Street, ensuring safe access to Milby High School following the tragic death of student Sergio Ivan Rodriguez. Construction is expected within five years. The bill also establishes a statewide grant program for future railroad crossing separation projects.



TRAIN WATCH, a new interactive map providing real time crossing updates

QUALITY OF LIFE

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Until this year, Houston’s short-term rental (STR) market was largely unregulated. While most STRs listed on platforms like Airbnb and VRBO operate responsibly, some cause big problems for neighborhoods. Residents complaining of party houses, overrun apartments, and nuisance and illegal behaviors led council to adopt a registration-based framework to regulate them.

This new ordinance, approved by council on April 16, requires monthly reporting of citations for noise, litter, health code violations, and other illegal activities occurring at STRs to the city’s Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department (ARA). The ARA director will have discretion through the ordinance to revoke registrations of problem properties.

Online STR platforms will be required to remove the listing of any STR found to be operating without a valid registration within 10 days of being informed by the city.

STR registration began on October 1, 2025, and enforcement will begin on January 1, 2026. For more information, click here.

HOMELESSNESS

Houston is pursuing new strategies to address homelessness, marked by key developments earlier this year. City council expanded the civility ordinance in Downtown and East Downtown to a 24/7 ban on sitting, lying, or storing belongings on public sidewalks, intended as a tool to connect individuals experiencing chronic homelessness with support services.

To create a centralized resource, the city purchased 419 Emancipation Avenue to operate as a “super hub.” This facility will serve as a low-barrier triage point with 150 to 225 beds, offering comprehensive services like healthcare, psychiatric support, and substance use programs to transition people into housing.

In January, our team participated in the annual point-in-time count. The count found 3,325 individuals experiencing homelessness across Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties – 61% sheltered and 39% unsheltered.

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD celebrated the opening of its Respite, Rehabilitation, and Re-Entry Center on October 13. This facility offers 24/7 care, including detox services for the unhoused with co-occurring mental health and substance use challenges.



ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

In July, a presentation was made to the Quality of Life Committee regarding micromobility (scooters) and public safety to address an increase in complaints concerning reckless riding. The presentation included results from the 2025 task force. Later in November, city council amended chapters 45 and 24, implementing a citywide curfew. The curfew hours are based on data from HFD showing 78% of EMS calls related to scooters downtown occurred between these hours.

The item returned to committee in December where further improvements were discussed.

PARKS

In October, the Emancipation Park Conservancy announced plans for an \$18.5 million expansion thanks to the generosity of the Kinder Foundation. More than 5,000 square feet will be added to the current configuration, creating a new, outdoor feature, plus a green room, audio-visual tech room, climate-controlled storage, and renovated cultural center.

Construction began this year on the Memorial Groves project at Memorial Park. This project, honoring the soldiers who trained at Camp Logan, will include a grid of tall trees symbolizing soldiers standing in formation. The area will also include opportunities to learn more about the lives and daily routines of the soldiers as well as spaces for picnics and interactive recreation and play.

“Let’s Play Houston” is a \$50 million initiative to revitalize 25 neighborhood parks through a partnership between the city and the Houston Parks Board. The program improves safety and conditions, tackles long-standing infrastructure needs through a data-driven approach, and leverages public funds to bring in private and other non-city investments. Permitting and construction are expected to begin for phase one in 2026.



ISMAILI CENTER OPENS

The new Ismaili Center on Allen Parkway has opened! Inaugurated by Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, the center is the first of its kind in the US and is designed to be a permanent venue for cultural exchange and public dialogue. The facility features contemporary architecture influenced by Islamic design, surrounded by large gardens. It aims to foster understanding between diverse communities in Houston.



2026 FIFA WORLD CUP

Houston is preparing for the 2026 FIFA World Cup! As part of the preparations, Airbnb is investing \$1.3 million in Houston’s Columbia Tap Trail, a multi-use path in the Third Ward. The project will enhance greenspaces, add lighting, mini-soccer pitches, and support youth soccer programs as part of Houston’s legacy projects, aiming to create a more connected, safer, and soccer-friendly community space.



BUDGET

The year has been highly active on the fiscal front, focusing on efficiency, budget approval, and strengthening the city’s long-term financial health. City council approved the \$7 billion Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) operating budget on June 4th in a 14-3 vote. My team and I thoroughly analyzed the proposal, submitting over [150 questions](#) to departments and overseeing 23 departmental workshops.

Highlights from this budget:

- A \$62 million dollar draw down from fund balance reserves (the city’s savings)
- Operational savings: \$16 million in department cuts, \$19 million in consolidations, and \$18 million in strategic procurement
- Personnel & METRO: \$29 million saved via retirement incentives and \$22M saved by METRO covering signal/streetlight electricity
- Ending fund balance: Projected today at \$354.3 million, well above the 7.5% policy requirement

Key investments & costs

- \$490 million total for streets and drainage (\$184 million from property tax)
- Pay raises of 10% for police, 3.5% for municipal employees, and 3% for fire
- \$460 million for pensions and \$442 million for health benefits

Long-term fiscal strategy

- The Ernst & Young (EY) citywide efficiency study is moving into implementation after identifying improvements in operations, spending, and financial controls. City council approved an additional \$4 million contract to execute these recommendations—specifically targeting duplicative contracts and procurement practices. This initiative is expected to generate 5% to 15% in citywide savings.
- OPEB Trust: Established a trust to fund retiree health benefits, shifting away from “pay-as-you-go.” With a \$75 million investment over five years, the 2048 unfunded liability will drop from \$4.5 billion to \$1.1 billion.
- Tax rate: Remained flat at \$0.519190. While stable for taxpayers, rising personnel costs—including multi-year raises for public safety—contribute to projected future deficits of \$227 million next year.

JANUARY 13

Finance provided an update on the city’s [independent actuarial audits on our three pension systems – fire, police, and municipal employees](#).

MARCH 17

Joint meeting with Service Delivery Committee. BARC staff provided information on potential paths forward to improve animal welfare in Houston. Later in October, city council approved a \$16 million contract for renovations at BARC’s existing campus. The mayor’s office and finance also briefed council on the [EY spend analysis](#) at this March meeting.

APRIL 1

Deputy Controller Will Jones provided an analysis on over-time usage and costs associated with solid waste, police, and fire. Combined overtime for the three departments exceeded the FY25 budget by \$72 million.

APRIL 10

Joint-meeting with the Labor Committee to review the [Voluntary Municipal Employee Retirement Program Option \(VMERPO\)](#). Over 35% of those offered the option decided to retire, saving more than \$99 million on an annual basis across all funds, \$29 million in the General Fund. The joint meeting also reviewed findings from the Termination Pay Working Group which looked at the city’s sick and vacation leave policies.

MAY 7

Director Dubowski presented the [proposed FY26 budget overview and general fund five-year forecast](#).

MAY 8

Joint meeting with the Public Safety and Labor Committees to review the proposed [Houston Police Officers Union contract highlights](#).

JUNE 3

The Kinder Institute presented its findings on my [YOUR TWO CENTS budget survey](#). The budget survey received 1,200 responses and asked Houston residents about preferences for city spending. The five city-provided services with the highest support for increased spending include infrastructure, addressing homelessness, solid waste, neighborhood enforcement, and police.

JUNE 9

The finance department presented the [proposed FY26-30 capital improvement plan \(CIP\)](#). This year’s five-year plan includes \$16.7 billion in projects from all funding sources.

JULY 8

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Annette Ramirez briefed committee members on the [duties of her office and property taxes as it relates to Houston](#).

AUGUST 26

Joint-meeting with Economic Development. Finance, Houston Public Works, and General Services provided an [overview on the CIP process](#). Council Members Ramirez and Peck presented on their CIP amendments proposed to improve the process.

SEPTEMBER 2

Deputy Controller Will Jones provided a presentation on [economic evaluation of disaster preparedness](#). Council Members Kamin and Peck also presented their budget and CIP amendments related to the [budget stabilization fund](#) and the [Dedicated Drainage and Street Renewal Fund \(DDSRF\) Fund Balance](#).

OCTOBER 7

A lengthy meeting! Deputy Controller Will Jones and Finance Director Melissa Dubowski presented [peer city revenue comparisons](#) and [Houston’s revenue cap](#). The Houston Health Department and Harris County Public Health provided an update on collaboration efforts looking at what more the city and county health departments can do together. Finally, Houston First Corporation (HFC) reviewed the [George R. Brown \(GRB\) Expansion Project Feasibility Study](#). Key projections over 30 years include:

- \$20.6 billion in new direct and indirect economic spending
- An estimated 30% increase in the number of events hosted at the GRB, reducing facility downtime by 66%
- \$5.6 billion in new hotel revenue and \$740 million in new local tax revenue

The project is funded through the state’s portion of incremental Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue growth, authorized by Senate Bill 1057 passed by the legislature in 2023. This mechanism, similar to those used in Dallas and Fort Worth, requires no new local taxes or city General Fund dollars.

NOVEMBER 4

The finance director presented a quarterly update on [EY progress and spend analysis](#). Finance also joined HFD, Houston Police Department (HPD), and the Solid Waste Management Department to provide a [quarterly update on overtime usage](#) in their departments. The controller’s office also presented an overview of their [audit of the fleet department’s fuel card program](#).

DECEMBER 9

Houston First returned to [brief the committee](#) on their proposed annual 2026 budget as well as expenditures and financing for the GRB expansion project. The committee voted to advance items to the full city council for consideration, including amendments by Council Members Ramirez, Peck, and Kamin on CIP processes, transparency, and the budget stabilization fund.



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

I also serve on the city’s Arts and Culture and Service Delivery Committees. Some highlights from these two committees:

ARTS & CULTURE

At the August Arts & Culture meeting, the Houston Film Commission, Houston Cinema Arts Society, and Southwest Alternate Media Project provided an overview on efforts to promote film production in Houston. Additionally, I traveled to Austin during the legislative session to advocate for many bills important to Houston including SB 22, which aims to position Texas as a film capital. The bill creates a long-term funding mechanism for film incentives with \$300 million deposited every two years through 2035.

SERVICE DELIVERY

In July, city council appointed Larius Hassen as the new director of the Solid Waste Management Department. He briefed city council at the [July 23 Service Delivery Committee meeting](#). The new director is making logistical and operational changes to improve service quality. At the council meeting, \$12 million was appropriated for 45 additional solid waste trucks. As part of the consolidations included in the FY26 budget, neighborhood code enforcement officers and commercial code enforcement officers transitioned to the Houston Permitting Center (HPC). HPC provided an update on this consolidation at the [August 27 Service Delivery Committee meeting](#).

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (H-GAC) BOARD MEMBER

H-GAC is our region’s council of governments. Leaders from our 13-county region make decisions about spending federal and state funds for workforce development, childcare, flood mitigation, safety, solid waste, and community and environmental planning. Some notable H-GAC items in 2025: Approved over \$30 million in contracts for transportation and regional planning studies, air quality measures, technology upgrades, workforce development, and public outreach. Wrapped up a two-year study on the Washington Avenue Corridor to encourage development of multimodal transportation options, increase safety, improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and improve air quality. This commitment to sustainability is further reflected in the completion of the Washington Avenue Corridor study and the funding of vital water quality monitoring programs to protect the region’s natural resources. H-GAC is launching its Railroad Crossing Grade Separation Initiative, a two-year pilot to conduct feasibility studies at up to ten critical regional crossings. This will evaluate unstudied locations using set criteria to support regional efforts in obtaining funding for rail crossing improvements.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC) BOARD MEMBER

TPC provides policy guidance and overall coordination of the transportation planning activities and spending of federal and state transportation funding within the eight-county region. Some notable TPC items in 2025: In April, TPC board approved a transportation scenario planning and modeling study for the FIFA World Cup 2026. The World Cup presents both a major opportunity and a challenge for the metropolitan planning area as it prepares to host the world’s largest sporting event. The study will develop data-driven traffic scenarios and models for events, provide insight and solutions to support agency planning, deliver a comprehensive post-event summary with key finds, lessons learned, and recommendations, and create a guidance report to support future large scale-event planning. In June, Ron Papsdorf joined the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as the new Chief Transportation Officer and in October the MPO celebrated its 50th anniversary.

TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (TML) BOARD MEMBER, DIRECTOR AT-LARGE

TML advocates for cities across Texas in the state legislature. TML worked during the 89th legislative session to keep harmful bills away and promote measures beneficial to cities. Areas of focus included: city finances and taxes, land use and development, elections, public safety, open government, utilities and environment, and city administration. Board meetings were held in Schertz, TX, in June and Fort Worth in October where the annual conference took place. TML events connect leaders from large and small cities throughout Texas, offering excellent opportunities for networking and collaboration.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In May, HPD announced details of a new five-year contract with the Houston Police Officers’ Union (HPOU). This contract includes increased starting officers’ salaries, a pay increase for experienced officers, and significant investments in HPD’s recruitment and retention strategies. Negotiating teams for the city and HPOU met for several months to reach an agreement. The increases approved by city council on May 21 include:

- July 2025 – 10% increase (included in this year’s proposed budget)
- July 2026 – 8% increase
- July 2027 – 6% increase
- July 2028 – 6% increase
- July 2029 – 6.5% increase
- On July 1, 2025, a first-year officer will make \$81,600
- Patrol pay for an officer with at least two years of seniority will increase from \$600 to \$1600 annually

On June 26, HFD achieved a historic milestone with its largest-ever graduating class of 102 cadets. This increase in recruitment followed the negotiation of a new five-year contract. The contract agreement included salary increases and backpay, resolving a period of eight years during which a formal contract was not in place.

CRIME STATS

Violent crime totals for YTD September 2025 are trending 17.7% below last year. Non-violent crime totals for YTD September 2025 are trending 8.3% below last year.

ONLINE & IN THE NEWS

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

MAYOR JOHN WHITMIRE, COUNCIL OPT TO KEEP TAX RATE FLAT, SOLIDIFYING A \$128M DEFICIT FOR HOUSTON

“ While the move means an unchanged tax rate for Houstonians, it also means the city will have to draw down another \$53 million from its savings to cover its \$7 billion budget this year, in turn creating a \$128.5 million deficit to start off the fiscal year. The decision came down to a 12-3 vote with Council Member Tiffany D. Thomas absent. Council Members Abbie Kamin, Edward Pollard and Sallie Alcorn – the council’s budget chair and one of the most trusted voices in Houston government on the city’s finances – were among the no votes. “It’s a swing and a miss to not bring in the revenue we need to cover our budget,” Alcorn said ahead of the vote. “What I know with certainty is that dipping further into our fund balance by \$53 million weakens the city’s financial position, and it deepens future deficits.” ”



KPRC 2

HOUSTON NIGHTLIFE NOISE FORCING RESIDENTS TO MOVE, HOW HPD IS CRACKING DOWN ON BAR AND NIGHTCLUBS

“ We need to give residents a better night’s sleep and better quality of life,” Alcorn said. “I think we have some pretty good rules on the books. It’s a matter of having the personnel to enforce them. So I am happy to see these club and bar units go out from HPD. ”

HOUSTON LANDING

EXPERTS SAY COMPOSTING IS THE BEST SOLUTION TO LANDFILLS. WHERE DOES HOUSTON STAND?

“ We felt like we really made a mark educating residents about composting,” Alcorn said. “But we really need more funding for something long-term like this. The key is getting a grant from the federal government. ”

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

LONGER GRASS, LESS PATROLS: WHAT TO EXPECT IN HOUSTON PARKS DUE TO 2026 BUDGET CUTS

“ City Council Member Sallie Alcorn said she was “really disappointed” by the scope of the cuts. “I’ve spent some time on the parks budget digging in,” Alcorn said. “We are falling behind other cities in their investment in parks, and we all need to be up here in this horseshoe advocating for money for very important parks.” ”



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&



@SALLIEALCORN



THE TEAM



KATIE SHELTON
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF



JORDAN FRAZIER
CHIEF OF STAFF



HELEN CHOU
PUBLIC AFFAIRS LIAISON



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

- Accepted fire, police, and municipal pension system audits
- Adopted legislative principles for city’s government relations team to follow during 89th Texas Legislative Session
- Purchased pavement preservation services for Houston streets

FEBRUARY

- Submitted \$5 million grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency to expand the North Main Neighborhood Depository to increase recycling rates
- Established Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resilience
- Permitted peer-to-peer vehicle sharing operations at IAH and Hobby through contract with Turo

MARCH

- Submitted \$78 million worth of projects to Commissioner Garcia’s Precinct 2 Partnership Program
- Created Rice Village Management District
- Approved \$4 million contract with EY for implementation program and contract negotiation services, projecting \$5 to \$15 million in savings
- Purchased Naloxone training for 3,000 first responders and authorized an agreement with UT Health Science Center for opioid wastewater analysis

APRIL

- Renamed Terminal E at IAH to honor late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
- Amended Chapter 28 to regulate short-term rentals in Houston
- Purchased security lighting for several parks
- Submitted application to the Texas Water Development Board to fund \$966 million project at the East Water Purification Plant
- Approved agreement with Buffalo Bayou Partnership for bridge project to connect Fifth Ward, Second Ward, and East End to Buffalo Bayou

MAY

- Adopted the 2023 disparity study
- Purchased two street sweepers for Houston Public Works
- Authorized interlocal agreement with Harris County Public Health for increased data sharing
- Approved Jones/Watson street and drainage lawsuit settlement agreement
- Closed Main Street between Rusk and Commerce for Main Street Promenade project

- Approved police contract included 36.5% pay increase over five years

JUNE

- Approved FY26 budget
- Authorized agreement for citywide graffiti abatement services
- Extended contracts with Linebarger and Perdue for delinquent tax collection services
- Purchased services to improve Houston Permitting Center dashboard
- Awarded six contracts for citywide mowing and debris removal services
- Issued bonds for IAH Terminal B project
- Approved FY26-30 Capital Improvement Plan

JULY

- Authorized \$76 million for Shepherd/Durham project between 15th Street and Interstate 10
- Amended Chapter 2 to allow evening public session meetings
- Amended Chapter 40 expanding the civility ordinance hours
- Appointed Larius Hassen as director of the Solid Waste Management Department
- Authorized purchase agreement with City of Bellaire for stormwater detention
- Appropriated \$12 million for purchase of 45 solid waste trucks
- Created Other Post Employment Benefits trust

AUGUST

- Approved the CDBG-DR24 plan
- Purchased two lane striping trucks for Houston Public Works
- Amended Chapters 3, 20, and 30 to align with state law regarding restaurant establishments – these amendments, required by the state, weakened city code related to health inspections and the noise ordinance
- Submitted grant applications to the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) for \$158 million in drainage improvement projects in Pleasantville, Sunnyside, and Freeway Manor

SEPTEMBER

- Submitted further grant applications to TDEM for \$54 million to install 50 generators at police and fire stations, multiservice centers, libraries, and drinking water facilities
- Confirmed Dr. Theresa Tran as director of the Houston Health Department
- Purchased \$60 million of Microsoft products for city employees

OCTOBER

- Awarded \$2.7 million for spay/neuter services for BARC
- Accepted \$78 million in state funds to continue Harris County Area Agency on Aging operations
- Authorized a lease agreement with Venus Aerospace at the Spaceport
- Authorized a ground lease to centralize HPD, HPW, and other city employees at 1600 Smith, shifting \$20 million in annual deferred maintenance costs at 611 Walker and 1200 Travis
- Appointed Troy Lemon as city secretary
- Closed some downtown blocks to allow for \$2 billion GRB expansion project
- Purchased 419 Emancipation to operate as a low-barrier shelter Super Hub for the city’s homeless population

NOVEMBER

- Appropriated nearly \$20 million in dedicated drainage and street fund renewal dollars for roadway rehabs, local drainage projects, and the ditch re-establishment program
- Purchased mass notification system for the office of emergency management
- Designated the East End as a civility district following the purchase of 419 Emancipation
- Amended chapters 26 and 45, implementing a citywide curfew for scooters between 8 pm and 4 am
- Approved an interlocal agreement with Harris County for the TIRZ 17 detention projects – under this agreement, Harris County Flood Control will contribute \$20 million for construction
- Appropriated \$23 million in drainage funds for street rehabs and ditch re-establishment

DECEMBER

- Approved grant agreement for \$35 million Bissonnet Safe Streets Project
- Extended monthly evening public sessions beyond 2025 sunset
- Authorized a \$15 million contract for the purchase of black and green solid waste containers, funded by the container lease fee
- Allocated \$11 million for implementation of HPD's new record management system, transitioning from an existing legacy system to a more modern platform
- Appropriated \$10.3 million for local drainage projects
- Appropriated \$14 million for asphalt overlay rehab projects