

MAYOR'S NEWLETTER  
JULY 2009

TOWN HALL MEETING

You are invited to meet with the City Manager and me on Thursday, July 23 at 7 PM in the Jersey Village Civic Center for a two-way conversation about the current Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) project, draw a consensus about the desired outcome, then design a plan to make it happen.

I have heard from numerous residents who live in the northeast quadrant of the city about the changes and construction of the bypass channel. They have seen the construction project and almost everyone has a different opinion of the project. Some people are concerned about the green space and clear-cutting of the vegetation, some are concerned about the increased four-wheeler traffic, others are worried about security, and no one likes the noise and dirt of construction. I ask that you remember why this project is being completed.

The highest priority I've had since I was first elected to City Council was to decrease the likelihood of flooding in residents' houses. Ultimately, however, the HCFCD has that responsibility and they have been working continuously since Allison in 2001 to mitigate flooding along the White Oak Bayou. They have spent millions of dollars and have designed and completed many flood control projects to help the residents in Jersey Village. There are two significant projects left to complete: the diversion channel and the detention pond north of the golf course.

The channel is designed to divert about a third of the water that would normally flow through Jersey Village in White Oak Bayou in times of high water. This project has been in design for more than twenty years, and the initial part was built before I moved into the city fifteen years ago. The goal of this by-pass channel is to keep storm water in the bayou and not allow it to flow over its banks into houses in Jersey Village.

City management and I met with HCFCD a couple of weeks ago to discuss the two projects that will directly impact Jersey Village. We had an excellent conversation and they are going to make sure that residents will be pleased with the finished product. Our responsibility is to decide what we want the finished product to be. They cannot meet the expectations of each individual, however, so we need to reach a consensus about the end result. Rather than talk to everyone individually, I would like to hear everyone's thoughts in a group so you and I can hear exactly what your neighbors are thinking. I believe that, by letting everyone offer their input, we can develop a plan.

The HCFCD has budget constraints as well as limitations on what can be built in the channel. It is possible that Jersey Village can add improvements to the channel that will make this area another amenity to the village. The desires of Jersey Village residents and the budget will determine what the finished product will be. If you have an opinion on this project or just want to hear what others are thinking, please join us on July 23.

P. S. Has anyone noticed the lower level of noise along the Beltway?

