



## Office of Commissioner Keith Henry, District 1

### Annual Report

February 21, 2022

#### Report Summary

As Commissioner of District One, I have been privileged to serve the City of Texas City citizens and the constitutions of district one, who entrusted me to be your representative. I have diligently worked on initiatives that constituents noted that were pertinent to our community throughout my term. Notably, those initiatives include reading, financial literacy, and youth initiatives, in addition to community policing. Correspondingly, this report provides a cursory summary of current initiatives voted on by the commission or explicitly implemented by my office. Governance is genuinely a team effort, and many of my initiatives could not have been accomplished without the diligent work of city staff and countless community leaders. On balance, as my term comes to a close in early May, I would like to give a special thanks to the voluminous number of stakeholders I have collaborated with to improve our district. Galveston County Coaches Association, Communities in Schools Galveston, Anchored Real Estate Group, the Khambrel Foundation, Big Phil's Creole and Soulfood, Texas Southern University, TCISD Board President Ms. Nakisha Paul, Texas City-LaMarque Chamber of Commerce, Texas City Police Department, Mainland Children's Partnership, St. Vincent's house Galveston, City of Texas City Parks and Recreation, City of Texas City Library Staff, Galveston County Health District.

#### Highlights

Mentorship Initiative

Financial Literacy Initiative

Addressing Food Insecurity

Hired Diverse Police Workforce

Texas Southern University: Graduate Students visit to the Gulf Coast Water Authority



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### Community Development/Public Works

#### **Drainage**

With funding from the Texas General Land Office, construction is set to begin to improve roads and drainage.

#### **Street Improvements**

Commissioners voted unanimously for federal funding to the Community Development Department for needed street and home improvements for eligible citizens. The street projects are scheduled for August 2022. However, my goal is to get the street improvements underway by the end of my term in May 2022.

#### **Addressing Food Insecurity Initiative**

Hosted a turkey drive and provided groceries quarterly to senior citizens and community partners.

#### **Financial Literacy Initiative**

We have partnered with community business Anchored Real Estate to begin a workshop series for financial literacy. Notably, the first workshop was hosted in early February 2022.

#### **Criminal Justice Reform**

I have begun the preliminary stages of working with Open Doors Mission. This faith-based organization is a 7 month residential program that provides free healthcare, mental health, and legal services to formerly or currently incarcerated individuals. This program will be county-wide, and we will work with the District Attorney and county judges to reduce sentences and provide career training.

#### **Police Budget**

Commissioners voted unanimously to increase police funding with the promise of hiring a more diverse force. Chief Stanton has now hired a record number of African-American and women officers. We now have one of the most competitive salaries in Greater Houston.



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### Youth Initiatives

#### **Mentorship**

City of Texas City Parks and Recreation created academic after school programs that are now available for all youth throughout the city, particularly in low-income communities. My office is currently working with community partners such as the Communities in Schools Galveston and the national Black MBA to implement mentorship programs throughout Texas City and Galveston county.

#### **Reading Literacy Initiative**

My office, in addition to the library, created “little free libraries” at both Carver Park and Sanders Community center. Our library director now sends new books to those libraries. We have also directed more funding for literacy programs for the next ten years.

#### **Youth Baseball**

Thanks to Mr. Traylon Stewart and the Galveston County Coaches association. Last year we brought back youth baseball to my district (there wasn't a viable program in 20 years). Over 200 under-served youth have access to a robust baseball program with credentialed coaches.

**The program has been so successful they now have the City baseball charter. We are in the preliminary stages of seeking a partnership with the Houston Astros Foundation and MLB's “RBI” program.**

Sincerely,

*Keith G. Henry*

Keith G. Henry  
Commissioner, District 1