

# Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member  
Mike Sullivan



900 Bagby, First Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

17629 El Camino Real  
Houston, TX 77058

**PHONE:**  
832.393.3008

**FAX:**  
832.393.3279

**E-MAIL:**  
[DistrictE@houston.tx.gov](mailto:DistrictE@houston.tx.gov)

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facebook

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[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)

## Residents of District E,

City Council unanimously approved the FY 2011 budget on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. I supported the budget for three reasons; it did not raise the property tax rate, it cut spending across all departments and it funded two new police cadet classes and three new fire cadet classes. It looks like Mayor Parker is going to run a much tighter budget than previous administrations, and for that, she has my support.

Early projections predicted that we faced a \$140 million budget deficit. Therefore, I assumed a strong leadership role in offering 39 budget amendments that called for specific budget reductions. These would have resulted in up to \$30 million in savings. Some were adopted by Mayor Parker and Council, but most were not.

A couple of my significant budget amendments called for delaying an automatic 3% pay raise for all municipal employees, cap significant spending at FY 2009 levels and eliminate funding for the city's Affirmative Action and Contract Compliance Department. Together, these amendments would have saved the city nearly \$14.2 million. Unfortunately, none of these items passed.

The city is now reviewing its "take home vehicle" policy. One amendment I offered called for no one to have a take home vehicle if they had not been called out for service at least once in the last 30 days. If the idea of providing a vehicles is to allow employees a way to get back to work for emergencies, then surely they would have been called out for service at least once every 30 days; if not, take that privilege away.

In closing, I want to thank Mayor Parker and Council for approving my amendments calling for more accurate fuel cost allocations (which could save \$1.6 million), to cap employee training not directly job related (\$50,000) and to review the tuition reimbursement project to eliminate those not directly job related (\$500,000+). I also called for eliminating all "800 telephone numbers," and to penalize departments that did not report accurate performance measurement numbers, both of which passed.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

**Mike Sullivan**  
Council Member

## Memorial Reception for Marine Sgt. Brandon Bury

Kingwood native, Marine Sergeant Brandon Bury was killed on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> while on a combat operation in Kabul. The Kingwood community gathered along Woodlands Hill Drive on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, with American flags to show appreciation to Sgt. Bury for his ultimate sacrifice for his country. Council Member Sullivan attended his memorial service at St. Martha's Catholic Church and presented his family with an official Proclamation proclaiming June 19<sup>th</sup> as Marine Sgt. Brandon Bury Day in the City of Houston. A reception was also held at First Baptist Church.



*The Kingwood community lined the streets with American flags in honor of Sgt. Bury.*

Council Member Sullivan would like to thank the Houston Fire Department and the Houston Police Department for assisting with the services. He and the District E staff will continue to keep the Bury family in their thoughts and prayers.

## US Army Corps of Engineers Withdraw Permit Application

Council Member Mike Sullivan is pleased to announce that Kingwood Pointe Partners has formally withdrawn their permit application with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Council Member Sullivan worked hard with the community to oppose the 121 acre proposed development by writing a letter of opposition to the US Army Corps of Engineers, working with City of Houston Department Directors and other community leaders and keeping an open line of communication between the Corps and his constituents.

The permit would have allowed Kingwood Pointe Partners to impact 23.08 acres of wetlands with a development consisting of commercial and multi-family residential properties. The proposed location was southeast of the Woodland Hills Drive and Crystal Springs Drive intersection, adjacent to the San Jacinto River, and the Kingwood Lakes subdivision.

## Kingwood Medical Center D.C. Trip



*Council Member Sullivan and Congressman Ted Poe*

Council Member Sullivan, along with Congressmen Kevin Brady and Ted Poe, has been working with the leadership of Kingwood Medical Center (KMC) on Medicare reimbursement rates for their physicians. On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., Council Member Sullivan and KMC CEO Melinda Stephenson met with both Congressmen and representatives from CMS, which processes and calculates Medicare reimbursements. Three physicians were also on the trip to support the hospital and to share their personal experiences on the issue.

## Starplex Cinemas Ribbon Cutting

Council Member Sullivan helped welcome the new Starplex Cinemas movie theater to Kingwood on Saturday, June 19th during a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber and its members celebrated the grand opening with refreshments and a movie in the new state of the art facility that features high quality HD technology. The family-friendly cinema is located at the corner of North Park and Highway 59.

Ted Mandel, representing Starplex Cinemas, has been a long time friend of the District E office. Ted is a Kingwood resident and is appreciated for his leadership in the community.



*Council Member Sullivan, Pirates of the Caribbean entertainer and Andy Dill*

## Humble I.S.D School Board Meeting

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Council Member Sullivan swore in Charles Cunningham to the Humble ISD School Board. Cunningham is a commercial relations manager for CenterPoint Energy and has lived in Humble ISD for 15 years. He has served on the school board since 2007 and currently is the chairman of the Humble ISD Legislative and Naming Schools Committees and a member of the Finance Committee. He also serves as the vice chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee for the Humble Area Chamber of Commerce.

Council Member Sullivan has supported Mr. Cunningham's role on the school board and was honored to swear him in for his second term.

## Project Updates

- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site. Demolition contract was awarded on May 12, 2010. The contractor completed demolition and clean up on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Widening of Northpark is under design. Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2010.
- Three new Houston Police Department officers have been added to the Kingwood substation effective May 31<sup>st</sup>, of which, is a bike officer.
- Intersection improvements at Woodland Hills and North Park Drive are close to completion. Improvements at West Lake Houston and Kingwood Drive will began in June and should be complete by the end of October.

## Flooding and Drainage Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan is hosting a regional flooding and drainage town hall meeting for his South Belt-Ellington constituents on Wednesday, July 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to discuss area flooding issues. The meeting will be held at San Jacinto College – South in the Marie Flickinger Building, Room 1210.

Representatives from the Harris County Flood Control District, United States Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Houston's Public Works Department will be in attendance. Those representatives will give updates on projects that have been completed since the last town hall meeting, those that are in progress and those that are scheduled for the future. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask the appropriate representative questions during the latter part of the meeting.

For more information, please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

## Office Depot Grand Re-Opening

On Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> the Office Depot located at 10525 Gulf Freeway reopened its doors to Houstonians. The store, which was damaged during Hurricane Ike, was remodeled and shown to elected officials, community leaders and its customers during a grand re-opening ceremony. Council Member Sullivan attended the grand re-opening ceremony, and presented the store's General Manager Mark Trusty with a certificate of recognition, welcoming the company back to the community and wishing them much success in the future.



*Pictured to the right: Council Member Sullivan with South Belt-Ellington Chamber members and Office Depot General Manager Mark Trusty*

## Servant Savior Presbyterian Church Meeting

Council Member Sullivan helped facilitate a meeting with Public Works, Neighborhood Protection and board members of Servant Savior Presbyterian Church on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Pastor Rev. Dr. Alan Brehem, Board Member Art Niebur and church member Kevin Murphy attended the meeting to discuss recent rebuilding efforts after a fire destroyed their place of worship. Servant Savior is currently in the process of submitting building plans and obtaining the appropriate permits to rebuild.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Mark Loethen and Sheila Blake from Public Works and Montacella Flaniken from Neighborhood Protection for attending the meeting.

## Garfield Elementary's Mural Unveiling



*Council Member Sullivan and State Rep. Carol Alvarado with Pasadena ISD high school students*

Garfield Elementary recently celebrated the unveiling of their new 180-square-foot mural that was completed for their Spark Park, which is to be completed later this year. Pasadena ISD high school students worked diligently on the mural and were able to unveil their hard work to the elementary school students, teachers and staff on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Council Member Sullivan was invited to attend the unveiling and helped recognize the bridging of high school students with elementary school students. As a former school board member, he encourages such programs and partnerships for the betterment of the community.

Funding for this program was provided by Harris county Department of Education, CASE/ASI, Pasadena ISD Administration, Garfield Elementary and Artist Boat.

## Project Updates

- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park has been approved and installation will begin Summer 2010.
- The new 12,000 square foot and LEED Silver certified J.S. Bracewell Library is open.
- Monroe Road improvements are complete, and open all the way to Beltway 8.
- METRO's newly expanded South Point Park and Ride Lot is open and has an additional 390 parking spaces available for it's patrons.

## Hurricane Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan hosted his annual hurricane town hall meeting on June 8 at the University of Houston – Clear Lake. Representatives from the Harris County Office of Emergency Management, City of Houston’s Office of Emergency Management, Solid Waste Department and Public Works and Engineering were in attendance and gave presentations on how to effectively prepare for this year’s hurricane season. Topics discussed included how to implement a plan to prepare and evacuate in case of the potential hurricane, how to properly dispose of debris and numbers to call in case of an emergency.



*More than 40 community members attended the meeting to learn about hurricane preparation advice.*

Council Member Sullivan thanks Francisco Sanchez from Harris County’s Office of Emergency Management for leading the meeting in his absence.

Before the meeting, the District E office ate dinner with the crew at HFD Station 94. The District E office thanks them for their hospitality and meal.

## Luks Interview with KTRK



*Council Member Sullivan discusses the SOB ordinance with KTRK-TV reporter Deborah Wrigley*

Council Member Sullivan interviewed with KTRK’s Deborah Wrigley last month concerning the possibility of Luks, a gentleman’s club, moving into Clear Lake. The proposed business has caused much concern within the community. During the interview, Council Member Sullivan publicly stated he believed Luks is an immoral business and said he had been led to believe that it violated Houston’s sexually oriented business restrictions.

Council Member Sullivan’s office has worked closely with other city departments, including the Legal Department to continue to monitor the potential opening of Luks.

## Super Neighborhood Council 81

The Super Neighborhood Council 81, which encompasses the Clear Lake area, will officially be recognized by Council Member Sullivan and Mayor Parker at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 27 at 1:30 pm. The stakeholders who are actively involved are invited to attend.

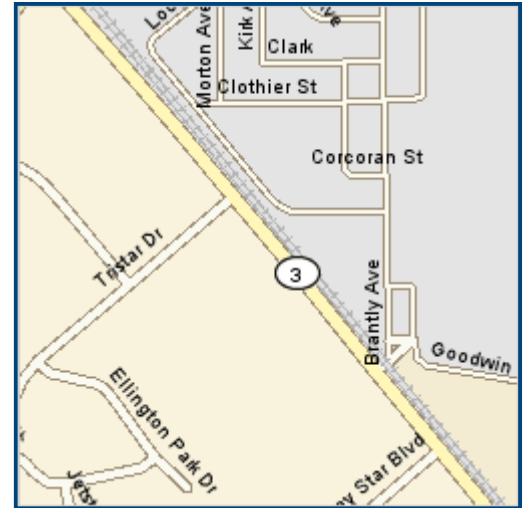
Super Neighborhoods act to represent the interests of the Clear Lake area and encourage residents of the communities and local businesses to work together to identify, prioritize and address the needs and concerns of the broader community. The council meets to discuss issues and projects that directly impact the community and form a Super Neighborhood Action Plan to prepare for improvements.



## Ellington Field Recycling Center

Clear Lake and South Belt residents have taken advantage of having a recycling facility in their backyards. In FY10, the community recycled 705 tons of material including paper, cardboard, glass and commingled items. Located in the Ellington Field area, the permanent drop off facility is easily accessible to District E residents, and is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Council Member Sullivan encourages residents to continue to utilize this facility.

For more information please call Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008 or visit [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste).



## Pastor Riggle's Birthday Celebration

Pastor Steve Riggle from Grace Community Church celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 4<sup>th</sup> with friends, colleagues and community leaders. Council Member Sullivan attended his birthday dinner as the district council member for the church and as a close friend of Pastor Riggle's. He wishes Pastor Riggle a happy birthday and looks forward to celebrating again in the future.

## Project Updates

- Sylvan Rodriguez Park is currently in the programming phase. Construction is scheduled to begin fiscal year 2012.
- \$250,000 in overtime has been designated for use by HPD Clear Lake substation.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.

## Redistricting Committee

Council Member Sullivan was recently appointed by Mayor Annise Parker as Chair of the Special Ethics and Council Governance Committee on Redistricting and Term Limits. The committee will meet to discuss matters relating to current city term limits and redistricting based on population and the Houston City Charter. All other council members and the public are invited to attend the meetings to give their input about the recommendations the administration has recommended.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. For more information, please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

## Houston Police Museum Tour



*Council Member Sullivan listens to Sgt. Chapman as he describes the memorial wall that is installed at the museum.*

Last month, Council Member and his staff were given a tour of the new Houston Police Department's museum located in the lobby of HPD headquarters at 1200 Travis. The new museum, which was moved from HPD's training facility, features artifacts from the Honor Guard, SWAT, Mounted Patrol, badges, uniforms and other equipment used by the department in the past. The museum also features a memorial wall honoring those officers that have given their lives in the line of duty while with the Houston Police Department. Their badges are respectfully displayed in a clear case for their families and the public to view.

The museum is free and open to the public. All proceeds from the sale of merchandise sold at the gift shop benefits the Houston Police Foundation.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Senior Police Office James Chapman for leading the tour.

## HPD Moonlight Bike Ride

On Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> Council Member Sullivan participated in the Houston Police Department's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Moonlight Classic Bike Ride. The event is a two-hour recreational ride that caters to cyclists of all abilities. It began at the Downtown Aquarium and stretched five to 25 miles on Memorial Drive. The night of cycling benefited the Houston Police Foundation, which is a non-profit organization established to help fund equipment and training for the Houston Police Department.

Council Member Sullivan is supportive of HPD and HPOU for what they do as a department and organization and the services both provide to the City of Houston.



## Crime Stoppers Staged Car Break In

Council Member Sullivan joined Mayor Parker, Police Chief Charles McClelland and others during a press conference on June 4<sup>th</sup> where HPD Officer Jim Woods staged a car break in outside of City Hall. The staged act was demonstrated as a reminder to Houstonians to remove their valuables from their vehicles.

Council Member Sullivan is aware of the increase in these types of crime. He has worked with the substations in his district and fully supports the efforts of the Houston Police Department and neighborhood organizations in educating the community of safety measures that can be taken to protect their belongings.

## Murderabilia Press Conference

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Senator John Cornyn and Mayor Annise Parker hosted a press conference announcing the introduction of a Sen. Cornyn's bill to stop the sale of murderabilia. Murderabilia includes items such as hair samples, blood, clothing, letters, artwork and other goods bearing the mark or signature of a criminal. The Mayor's Crime Victims Office and its Director Andy Kahan have actively worked with Sen. Cornyn to fight to stop the sale of such items.

Council Member Sullivan attended the press conference in support of the bill and the Mayor's Crime Victims Office that has dedicated time and effort in fighting for crime victims as well as educating the community about available resources.

## FIFA World Cup Press Conference



A special press conference was held on June 9th in the rotunda of City Hall to announce the official kick off of the World Cup. During the press conference, Mayor Parker announced Houston as leading the bid for hosting the 2018 or 2022 World Cup. Council Member Sullivan joined Mayor Parker during the event as well as Houston Dynamo General Manager Oliver Luck, Chairman of Houston's World Cup bid committee George Demontrond and Harris County Sports Authority Executive Director Janis Schmees.

*Harris County Sports Authority Board Member Dave Martin, Houston Texans President Jamey Rootes and Council Member Sullivan*

## Heavy Trash

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind District E residents that the City of Houston's Solid Waste Department will only pick up **Tree Waste** in July. Tree Waste is defined as "clean" wood waste such as tree limbs, branches and stumps. Lumber, furniture and treated wood will NOT be accepted.

For more information, please visit the Solid Waste Department's website at [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste).

City Hall Annex  
900 Bagby  
First Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

**Monica Aizpurua**, Chief of Staff  
**Karina Moreno**, District Outreach Coordinator  
**Autumn Jodzio**, North Sector Manager  
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