

RALLY FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM Continued from Front Page



Beyoncé Knowles-Carter speaks at Houston rally for Kamala Harris at Shell Energy Stadium. (Photo: Lucio Vasquez/HPM)

Black women (who experience maternal mortality at more than double the rate of their white counterparts) saw their numbers rise even higher.

“There is no room for Donald Trump in my exam room,” Dr. Ivy said. “And that’s why I am proud to be supporting Vice President Harris.”

Shortly afterward, stadium screens played an ad featuring Hadley Duvall, a Kentucky activist who was just five years old when her stepfather abused her for the first time: “I just felt like I was alone on a planet with a monster.”

She became pregnant by her stepfather at 12. “I didn’t know what to do. I was a child. I didn’t know what it meant to be pregnant, at all. But I had options. Because Donald Trump overturned *Roe v. Wade*, girls and women all over the country have lost the right to choose,” she said.

Like Duvall, Yesenia Gamez was able to access care prior to the Dobbs decision but worries for women in situations like hers. Gamez, a San Antonio woman who found out she was pregnant in Oct. 2021 – two weeks after her husband left for deployment – had an ectopic pregnancy. “Luckily I was able to go into the hospital the next day and begin to heal.” But months later, she said, the Supreme Court decision happened.

“Access to a safe and quick abortion is what saved my life and preserved my fertility,” she told the crowd, “And now those very same protections are gone.” Now in her second round of IVF with her husband, she’s concerned about what will happen if Republican plans to target IVF actually take root, given a past decision by the Alabama Supreme Court.

Ondrea Cummings, also from San Antonio, shared her story onstage. In fall 2022, she discovered she and her husband were expecting. But she soon learned her pregnancy wasn’t viable. She was told to wait – and wait she did, in a hospital. For days.

The baby girl she gave birth to lived for only a few minutes. And afterward, Cummings got sick: “I was diagnosed with sepsis and sent into a six-hour emergency surgery. I endured a partial lung collapse, two liters of infected fluid removed from my abdomen, and an incision that ran from under my breast to my pelvic area, which has left a deep scar. I was hospitalized for three weeks. My body was overwhelmingly consumed with infection. I nearly lost my life. I remember praying to God, ‘Just allow me to be

peaceful when I go.’ After my discharge from the hospital, I required round-the-clock care for three months.”

“Today is the first time I am sharing my story. It has taken months of physical and emotional healing to get where I am today,” she said. “I have come forward so people can learn from my experience and the experiences of other women impacted by these laws. The Texas abortion ban released by Donald Trump almost cost me my life. It has left me with scars. I am here to advocate for the women who are unable to share their truth, for the many black and brown women whose pain is often dismissed and disregarded, for the women like Amber Nicole Thurman, who have lost their lives under Donald Trump’s abortion ban. I never thought I would have this type of personal experience. If it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone. The same people who create these laws should ask themselves what if it was their loved one? For all the mothers, daughters, granddaughters, there has to be change. Kamala Harris is that change.”

She introduced businesswoman and philanthropist Tina Knowles, who told the crowd: “I am honored to be back in Houston tonight – the city where my girls got their voices.” She added: “I’ve been so blessed in my life to have many careers – many Black jobs. But I’ve said before that the best job that I’ve ever had is being a mother.” As a mother, she said, she always believed she was raising her girls in a world that was becoming freer for women with every passing generation – not one in which her granddaughter might have fewer rights than she.

Introduced by her mother, Tina Knowles and preceded by impassioned remarks from Destiny’s Child bandmate Kelly Rowland, Beyoncé kept her remarks short, sweet, and serene.

“H-Town!” Beyoncé began when she took the mic. “We are so happy to be standing here on this stage as proud, *country*, Texas women supporting and celebrating the one and only Vice President Kamala Harris. A woman who’s been pushing for what this country really needs right now: unity. It’s impossible not to feel the energy in this room, the positivity, the community, the humanity. We are at the precipice of an incredible shift – the brink of history.”

“I’m not here as a celebrity,” she said. “I’m not here as a politician. I’m here as a mother. A mother who cares, deeply, about the world my children and all of our children live in. A world where we have the freedom to control our bodies. A world where we’re not divided. Our past, our present, our future merge to meet us here.”

Beyoncé spoke to the sacrifices made by those who have come before us, those who lived to see this historic moment and those who have not. “Imagine all their sacrifice – the sacrifice made so that we can see the strength of a woman, standing in her power. Re-imagining what leadership is. For all the men and women in this room, and watching around the country,” she said, “we need you. Your voice has power and magnitude. Your vote is one of the most valuable tools, and we need you. Your freedom is your God-given right, your human right.”

“Texans and Houstonians from Third Ward, River Oaks, Sugar Land, Fifth Ward, Alief, Memorial, Southwest side, North Side, all the way down to Mo’ City,” she said, “we all have a role to play, to make this a reality. We’re all part of something much bigger. We must vote.”

“It’s time to sing a new song,” she declared. “A song that began 248 years ago. The old notes of downfall, discord, despair no longer resonate. Our generations of loved ones before us are whispering a prophecy, a quest, a calling, an anthem. Our moment is right now. It’s time for America to sing a new song. Our voices sing a song of unity. They sing a song of dignity and opportunity. Are y’all ready to add your voice to the new American song? Because I am. So, let’s do this. Ladies and gentlemen, let’s give a big, loud Texas welcome to the next president of the United States, Vice President Kamala Harris.”

Harris took the stage to rapturous cheers, thanking Beyoncé, Kelly Rowland, Ms. Tina, and all those who had assembled for the rally. “We have a lot of work to do, and we will not be distracted,” she vowed. “Listen, Texas, we have 11 days left in one

of the most consequential elections of our lifetime. Voting has already started, and we know this will be a tight race until the very end. Ok. So, here’s the thing. We know what is at stake, and we will not be silent. We know what’s happening here in Texas. Doctors and nurses can go to prison for life simply for providing reproductive care. Life in prison for health care providers for doing what they think is in their patient’s best interest. The beauty of our campaign is we are fighting for democracy.”

Harris decried the abortion bans that have swept across the state, particularly in Texas. Many who favor them, she said, are in states with the highest rates of maternal mortality in the country. “For decades, these extremist leaders, who have neglected prenatal care, maternity care and postpartum care, and now — after continuously failing to support women and children — claim to care about women and children. Well, I got a question for them: Where you been?” she thundered, to applause.

“Where have you been when it comes to prioritizing care for women and children? Where have you been when it comes to helping pregnant women and new mothers? Where have you been when it comes to affordable childcare?” she asked, adding: “Many of these same extremist leaders have also refused to extend the child tax credit, which lifted half of America’s children out of poverty. They, who have blocked proposals to lower childcare costs for working parents; they, who have tried to cut WIC and SNAP for low-income mothers and their children. The hypocrisy abounds.”

Harris declared Houston “ground zero in the fight for reproductive care,” urging Houstonians to turn out and vote. “Your vote is your voice,” she said. “Your voice is your power.”

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO)

Notice is hereby given that the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO), will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 12:00 noon** to receive public comment on the proposed January 2025 changes to METRO service. The public is invited to attend the hearing and provide comments in person.

The public may also join the hearing and provide comments virtually on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85495934577> or by dialing: **346-248-7799** or **1-888-475-4499** (toll-free), meeting ID: **854 9593 4577**. Additionally, if you do not want to provide comments during the public hearing, visit [RideMETRO.org/LiveStream](https://www.metro-tx.gov/LiveStream) to view a livestream of the event. A video recording of the hearing will also be archived on the same page.

The proposed service changes may include: Route changes and schedule changes to the 9, 36, 48, 79, 309, 310, and 270 bus routes, schedule changes to routes 5, 11, 14, 20, 26, 27, 28, 40, 47, 56, 60, 65, 82, 84, 99, 102, 151, 161, 162, 217, & 222; reintroduction of the 255 Kingwood and 256 Eastex routes, discontinuation of route 160, and the implementation / expansion of the 329 and 377 curbside services.

Copies of proposed route maps and available timetables will be available beginning on **Wednesday, October 30, 2024**, for public review online and in the lobby of the METRO RideStore, located in the Lee P. Brown METRO Administration Building at 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002, weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 12:00 noon** in the 2nd floor boardroom at 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002 (served by bus routes 6, 11, 32, 44, 51, 52, 54, 82, 85, 102, 137, 160, 161, 162, and METRORail).

HOW TO COMMENT ABOUT THE SERVICE CHANGES

If you would like to make public comments in person or virtually, **please register as a public speaker with the METRO Board Office at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing. Call 713-739-4834 or send an email to BoardOffice@RideMETRO.org and provide your name, address and telephone number.** As explained above, you may attend the public hearing in person or virtually on **Wednesday, November 6, 2024**, to provide comments. If you pre-register, your comments will be heard first at the public hearing. Your name will be called at the appropriate time to make your comments.

You may also provide comments by:

- Writing to us at METRO, ATTN: January 2025 Service Changes, 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002
- Faxing comments with a subject line referencing "January 2025 Service Changes" to 713-652-7956
- Calling or texting METRO Customer Contact Center at 713-635-4000
- Submitting comments on the METRO website at [RideMETRO.org](https://www.metro-tx.gov)

All comments should be submitted to METRO by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

For individuals with disabilities, assistive services or copies of public documents in an alternate format can be provided. Individuals with impairments may call **713-750-4271** a minimum of five (5) working days prior to the public hearing.

LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

Upon request, METRO provides free language assistance to help patrons who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English, in accordance with its language assistance plan. Please call **713-739-4018** or email METROPublicAffairs@RideMETRO.org to request language assistance or other accommodations at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.

OTHER

1. This public hearing conforms to requirements described in the Federal Transit Administration’s Circular 9030.1E, published January 16, 2014, page VI-7.
2. METRO does not discriminate based on disability in the admission or access to, or in treatment or employment in, its services, programs, and activities.
3. METRO is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its transit services based on race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

[RideMETRO.org](https://www.metro-tx.gov) • Call or text 713-635-4000



CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Computer Professionals for TX based Firm : “Sr. Software Developer : Plan, dsgn, dvlp, test, enhance, customize & co-ordinate activities to implement advance s/w module components in complex computing environments using latest tools & technologies. Analyze user needs & develop s/w solutions. Travel/reloc to various unanticipated worksite loc’ns throughout the U.S. may be required.” Apply w/2 copies of resume to KMinds LLC, 6250 West Park Dr, Ste 319, Houston, TX 77057.

LEGAL NOTICE

An application to sell and consume alcoholic beverages has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission by Society Kitchen and Cocktails LLC (trade name XO) for a Mixed Beverage Permit, Late Hours Certificate and Food and Beverage Certificate to be located at 5023 Washington Avenue, Houston Texas 77007. For information concerning filing a protest contact your local TABC at 713.426.7900 or tabc.texas.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE

CellCo Partnership and its Controlled Affiliates Doing Business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to construct a metal communications pole with an overall height of 43 feet 6 inches at the approx. vicinity of 21301 1/5 Cumberland Ridge Drive, Cypress, Harris County, TX, 77433 [Lat: 30°00’47.1456” N Lo: 95°45’3.3906” W]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Arjun Pai, a.pai@trileaf.com, 2550 South IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704 – 512.519.9388.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CellCo Partnership and Its Controlled Affiliates Doing Business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless antennas on a 44.3-foot monopole at centerline heights of 42.88 feet and 20 feet at the approx. vicinity of 8413 2/3 A Hempstead Road, Houston, Harris Co., TX 77008 [Lat: 29-47-12.898 N, Lo: 95-26-22.136 W]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Zoe Brown, z.brown@trileaf.com, 2550 South IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704 – 512.519.9388.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas 44.2-foot metal pole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 7048 2/3 Katy Road, Houston, Harris County, TX 77024. The coordinates of the site are Lat: 29-46-59.012, Long: 95-26-38.429. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Mitra Rahimi, m.rahimi@trileaf.com, 2550 S I-35 Frontage Rd, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Public Services – Airport Runway Snow Removal Equipment and Related Services – AR03-25

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, distributors, installers and service providers of Airport Runway Snow Removal Equipment and Related Services to make these types of products available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.hgacbuy.org/bid-notices> or [ESBD \(txsmartbuy.com\)](https://www.txsmartbuy.com).

Response Deadline: December 12, 2024 @ 12:00 P.M. CST