

AIR POLLUTION Continued from Front Page

When asked by the Forward Times whether the lack of zoning has anything to do with the disproportionate air pollution numbers across communities of color and select areas in the Greater Houston area, Hadavia passionately responded that the lack of zoning plays a major part.



“Zoning does contribute to this,” Hadavia stated. “There are rock crushing facilities a block away from a hospital in Kashmere Gardens. Why would you put a rock crushing facility across from a hospital? Well, it’s because there is no zoning that keeps them away from each other.”

Hadavia went on to say that a lack of zoning and historical policies, such as redlining, contributed to most of the air pollution issues in the Greater Houston area.

“Redlined communities, where land was undervalued and people were cut off from each other through freeway expansions, were impacted, and those communities are Black, brown, and lower income,” said Hadavia. “Industry then came in, bought up cheap land, built the refineries, and continued to build the sources of pollution across from hospitals and areas that we see today.”

Hadavia states that one of the primary advocacy messages that Air Alliance Houston wants to emphasize is that these types of actions must stop.

“It is a Title XI civil rights violation to be putting pollution sources in Black and brown communities,” said Hadavia. “This is a civil rights issue, and we are working with other groups who are also fighting and committed to this being addressed.”

One of the most eye-opening revelations shared by Hadavia was something that environmental justice advocates call the “Houston Arrow” which is a visual reminder that when you map any vulnerability measure (poverty, education status, employment history, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, etc.) the same interesting and shocking pattern is visible.

In essence, depending on how you choose to look at the “Houston Arrow” on the map, you can see that it is either pointing you to the areas of harmful air pollution or it is showing you where there isn’t any harm. On the map, the census tracts that are Black, brown, and low-income are the areas that the “Houston Arrow” is pointing to with environmental harms.

Areas like River Oaks, Memorial, and higher socioeconomic levels face no environmental harm. Areas like Kashmere Gardens, Sunnyside, Fifth Ward, and lower socio-economic levels are severely affected by these environmental hazards and sources of air pollution.

In a nutshell, every person who is impacted or not affected, should be concerned about this important issue. It is imperative that residents in the Greater Houston area are educated, equipped, and empowered with the right information, data, and tools that will help mobilize advocates, influence public policies, improve air quality, and ensure everyone is free from environmental harm.

CenterPoint Energy Honors Mayor Sylvester Turner with a \$1 Million Contribution Toward Energy Assistance for Low-Income Residents

By: Forward Times Newswire

CenterPoint Energy recently announced a special \$1 million contribution in Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner’s name for energy bill assistance for low-income residents across the Greater Houston area. The company will make the donation to the Gulf Coast Community Services Association (GCCSA), a local non-profit organization that will manage all aspects of the assistance to residents and families in need, including determining qualified applicants and distributing the funds to them.

“Given Mayor Turner’s selfless commitment and outstanding service to our city for the past eight years, this felt like a fitting way to celebrate him and build upon his legacy of helping others across our communities,” said CenterPoint Energy CEO Dave Lesar. “Throughout

his entire career in elected office, Mayor Turner always recognized the importance of supporting underserved neighborhoods and neighbors, and this contribution in his name will make a positive lasting impact.”

GCCSA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Jonita Reynolds said, “We are beyond grateful to have the opportunity for GCCSA, the Community Action Agency authorized by the federal government to provide services to low-income individuals and families in Houston, to help eradicate poverty and provide stability to households struggling to make ends meet. Through CenterPoint Energy and Mayor Turner’s generosity, we are proud to be able to play an integral part in minimizing the adverse impact of energy poverty on low-income households.”

Mayor Turner said, “It has been an incredible honor to serve our great city for my eight years in office. It also has been a privilege to collaborate with corporate leaders like CenterPoint Energy and impactful nonprofits like GCCSA to help the community members who need it most. “I am deeply grateful for the countless partnerships and initiatives benefiting Houston during my incredible journey as mayor. Together, we were able to do great things,” added Mayor Turner.

GCCSA began accepting applications for energy assistance on December 4, 2023. Low-income residents or families living in CenterPoint Energy’s service areas and in need of assistance with their energy bills can apply online at www.gccsa.org.

NO COST FOR CHRISTMAS Continued from Front Page

- Back door and frame
- Repairs to panels in home
- Garage doors slide paneling
- Windows
- Back door panel
- Replacement leaking faucets
- Doorbells
- Bedroom closet doors

To qualify for the program, participants must be a Harris County resident and be age 65 years or older. These requirements allow the board to assist as many district seniors as possible with the available funding.

The Senior Assistance Fund, Inc. is passionately committed to making a difference in the lives of seniors while improving their quality of life.



Contract worker assesses condition of Ms. Polk’s home



Contractor Greg Williams works at Ms. Polk’s home



Leaks need to be fixed on Ms. Polk’s home

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Public Services – Sewer/Storm Water, Hydro-Excavating Equipment and Related Services – SC06-24

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, dealers, distributors, and service providers for sewer/storm water line cleaning, maintenance, and inspection, hydro-excavating equipment, and sewer/storm water line related services to make these types of products and services available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts.

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

Response Deadline: January 25, 2024 @ 12:00 P.M. CST

HELP WANTED

Arizona Tile, LLC seeks Operations Manager: Stone Classification Specialist (Houston, TX). Inspect & classify imprtd stone frm factories. Req ed & exp. 30% int travel. For full job details, req and how to apply at <https://bit.ly/az039>.

HELP WANTED

IT
Occidental Petroleum Corp has an oppty for an Expert IT. May wrk from our HQ office in Houston, TX or reside anywhere in US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prsntly known. Email resume w/Ref# oxy23-014 to ApplyForOxyJob@Oxy.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

LEGAL NOTICE for IFB 23-53

The Houston Housing Authority (“HHA”) is soliciting sealed bids with the intent to establish a fixed price contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who can perform all the necessary construction and repair related work needed to replace the windows and complete various other repairs at Fulton Village, in accordance with the requirements and terms and conditions specified in Invitation for Bid (IFB) 23-53.

Interested parties are highly encouraged (but not required) to participate in a Pre-bid Conference/Teleconference that will be held 10 A.M. Central Daylight Time (CDT), December 13, 2023 per the instructions in Exhibit A of IFB 23-53 Window Replacement and Various Repairs at Fulton Village.

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents to the below individual by 2 P.M. Central Standard Time (CST) January 9, 2024, to Houston Housing Authority Attn: Austin Ng, Subject: IFB 23-53 Window Replacement and Various Repairs at Fulton Village - DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.

IFB 23-53 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA’s website at www.housingforhouston.com, or by sending an e-mail to HHA’s Procurement Dept. at Purchasing@housingforhouston.com.

A Fair and Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. For assistance: Individuals with disabilities may contact the 504/ADA Administrator at 713-260-0528, TTY 713-260-0574 or 504ADA@housingforhouston.com