



**Houston
Organization of
Public Employees**

Honorable Mayor Sylvester Turner and City Council,

As we all know, the Delta variant of Covid-19 has been wreaking havoc on our communities. Right now, Harris County has our current threat level at Red-1, the most severe level on the scale.

Houston residents, including City Employees, are catching and spreading this disease in alarming numbers. The consequences have been a severe strain on our collective Health Systems resulting in unfortunate sickness and regretful fatalities.

Like much of the country, our Houston communities have faced many conflicting sources sharing both credible and erroneous information regarding this disease resulting in mass confusion and misinformation.

With so much at stake and so much in the way, it certainly takes true courage and leadership for elected officials such as yourselves to take the lead on decisions that are in the best interest of our city.

However, this challenge is unprecedented in both its scale, its dissent, and its consequences. HOPE members were surprised to hear that you've decided to take action without working with us.

We're currently fielding numerous questions and concerns since the announcement of mandatory regular Covid-19 testing for us as City Employees. These naturally arise for us because we're the folks in the offices, facilities, and communities making sure Houston continues to function.

HOPE is the Sole and Exclusive Bargaining Agent for all Municipal employees. Over the 15 years since our charter, we've proved to be an effective organization. But we do recognize that there have been opportunities to take steps to work better together with City Leadership.

It is this recognition that further prompts this letter to you all today. We are therefore calling on you as our Elected City Leaders to meet with us to address the questions, concerns, and potential solutions of the many concerned and capable City of Houston Municipal employees.

Your efforts to address this historic pandemic are admirable, but you're certainly not alone in the fight. It will take us working together in consort to beat Covid-19 and restore our Houston communities.

HOPE President Roy Sanchez

HOPE Executive Director Brian Shepherd

HOPE Local 123
2506 Sutherland St.
Houston, TX 77023

www.hopetx.org

