



COUNCIL MEMBER JARVIS JOHNSON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2010

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COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON RELEASES STATEMENT REGARDING HOUSTON POLICE INCIDENT

Since 1994, as a young executive director of Phoenix Outreach Youth Center, I have fought to improve the quality of life in the 5th ward/Frenchtown communities of Houston. Through my former non-profit, I worked diligently to create better opportunities for educational and family resources, as well as build relationships between the police and residents. This area has had its unfair share of drugs, gangs, and illegal activity. I have worked for more than a decade with the Houston Police Department to remove blight from our community. I will not waiver from that commitment.

Lately, I have been concerned with the pool of energy dedicated to "speed traps" in the Lyons, Liberty/Waco bridge area, and formally requested that Mayors White and Parker as well as Police Chiefs Hurt and McClendon redirect personnel to the surrounding communities.

Last night was an unfortunate situation where the officer erroneously surmised that I was speeding and fled his warning – a claim I vehemently deny. At no point did I drive over 25 mph, run stop signs, or maneuver around any vehicle. I acted in no way that would give any indication that I was attempting to flee or evade apprehension.

As soon as I noticed the officer's lights and sirens, I immediately turned into my family's non-profit Youth Center where an exchange transpired that I am doubtful complies with standard police operating policy. However, I remained cooperative and will continue to do so.

I believe in the system, and the brave men and women who stand ready to defend us. I am thankful for the positive relationships I have with our police officers. I ask that the actions of one individual officer not be used as a reflection of the entire department of brave public servants. However, in this instance, the officer overreacted to a perception that was not reality.

I believe in this City, that is why I have chosen to serve its people. I believe in the process, and I believe that I, along with all I, represent will be vindicated. I urge the community to allow the justice system to take its course. Please keep my family, my staff, and me in your prayers.

I sincerely hope that last night's incident was not in response to my constant communication with the police in requesting an end to "speed traps" in the area, and an increase of patrol. We all work with the people in mind; they are our greatest priority.

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Councilmember Johnson will not make any other public statement until further notice.



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