



November 2, 2012 | Volume 2 | Issue 7

**Representative  
Dan Huberty**



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**Happy Halloween!**

Hello again, District 127. It is that wonderful time of year when children get to dress up as their favorite characters and bring home sacks of candy that seem to last through New Year's. At our house, all three kids rode around the neighborhood on a hayride to trick-or-treat with our friends and neighbors. It was a great evening.

But we are also in an Election season. After two very busy weeks of Early Voting, we are finally nearing Election Day. If you have not already done so, please get out and vote in this election cycle. Remember there is more than just candidates on the ballot. If you live in the City of Houston, you have seven propositions to vote on, as well as, the METRO Referendum. I encourage you to educate yourselves about all of the items on the ballot, from the candidates to the propositions and referendum and utilize your right to vote. If you have any questions, please visit [www.HarrisVotes.com](http://www.HarrisVotes.com) to get a copy of your Sample Ballot or find your polling location for Election Day.

Please take the time to read through our newsletter. We have included lots of items of interest for the residents of House District 127 from events that occurred over the last month to important upcoming dates. If you would like to learn more about any of the items listed in this newsletter, please contact my staff at either the District Office, 281-360-9410, or the Capitol Office, 512-463-0520. And remember you can always contact me through the House website at [www.house.state.tx.us](http://www.house.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty  
State Representative- District 127

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To Subscribe to our weekly newsletters, click [here](#).  
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## Christ the King Episcopal Church Golf Tournament

On Saturday, October 13, Christ the King Episcopal Church of Atascocita held its annual charity golf tournament at Tour 18 golf course off of FM 1960. Proceeds from the event benefitted Christ the King's outreach and in-reach missions to serve the community at large.

The four-man scramble tournament was followed by a dinner and awards ceremony. Representative Dan Huberty participated in the tournament and was the featured speaker at the dinner. His presence and thoughtful words were much enjoyed by all who attended.



Representative Huberty's team: (from left to right) Brandon McMahan (Galena Park, ISD), Rep. Dan Huberty, 1st Sgt. Eric Dawson U. S. Army, and Robert Lunde (Woodforest Bank).



Representative Huberty and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Eric Dawson; 1st Sgt. Dawson treated the participants in the tournament to a rendition of the National Anthem prior to the start of play, described as "a treat for all of us."

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## Kingwood Chamber of Commerce Meeting

On the morning of October 18, the Kingwood Chamber of Commerce held its free monthly breakfast at Skeeter's Grill. The event was an opportunity for all who attended to network and hear community news, as well as just to catch up with one another. The Kingwood Chamber of Commerce is always encouraging new members, and there were several new faces at the breakfast. Every month KCC holds at least one open meeting to help promote fellowship and commercial activity in the Kingwood area. In addition, these meetings are a chance to discuss the needs of the community at large. No RSVP is required; but be sure to bring your business card, as not only can these can be used for networking purposes, but in this past month's meeting, each person in attendance got to submit his or her business card as a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of the door prizes brought to the meeting.

If you missed out on this past month's meeting but are interested in getting involved with the activities of this organization, this month the Chamber will be holding its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Drive Luncheon at the Nathaniel Center on November 7. More information can be found at <http://www.kwchamber.org>.



Examples of Toy Tables from previous years

## Reminder: City of Houston Ballot Propositions

In case you missed this important information in the last newsletter, all city of Houston residents will have several propositions for a bond referendum, plus the election for the District E Council Member on this year's ballot. Please educate yourselves on these six propositions and the City Council election before you head to the polls to cast your vote.

For more information on these initiatives, visit [www.houstontx.gov/2012bondreferendum.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/2012bondreferendum.html) or find brief explanations of each proposition below.

- **Proposition A:**
  - \$144 Million in Public Safety Improvement bonds; includes improvements at neighborhood police stations citywide, expansion of two fire stations and citywide fire station maintenance/improvements
- **Proposition B:**
  - \$166 Million in Park Improvement Bonds; includes pavilion replacements, swimming pool upgrades and replacements, ball field lighting upgrades, trail replacement and overlays, and the Bayou Greenways Project (see below)
- **Proposition C:**
  - \$57 Million in Public Improvement Bonds for health, sanitation/recycling and essential improvements at city facilities; includes repairs to City Hall and City Hall Annex, renovation of the Westpark recycling facility and Central Depository, and environmental remediation
- **Proposition D:**
  - \$28 Million in Library Improvement Bonds (renovations of four libraries)
- **Proposition E:**
  - \$15 Million in Bonds for Affordable Housing; used to demolish blighted properties to provide locations for construction of affordable housing using federal funds
- **Bayou Greens Project:**
  - \$200 million public-private partnership
  - Completes the 100-year old vision of Mayor Horace Baldwin of continuous parks and trails along every major bayou segment in the city

### Proposed City Charter Amendments

**Proposition 1** will remove language in the charter that is either out-of-date or superseded by state or federal law. These sections of the charter reflect a bygone era when less favorable treatment of the disabled was allowed, the city was responsible for operating and funding the public schools and had the power to set the price for certain goods, such as a gallon of milk.

**Proposition 2** will modernize the process for recall, initiative and referendum by repealing out-dated sections that do not recognize the city's current election practices or the existence of single-member city council districts.

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## METRO General Mobility Program Referendum

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) has called a Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 that has to deal with the METRO General Mobility Program (GMP). The citizens who can vote in this election must live within the boundaries of the METRO service territory. As it applies to the communities within the Lake Houston region, the City of Humble, the City of Houston (Kingwood) and the unincorporated areas of Harris County that includes Atascocita, Summerwood, Fall Creek all are within the METRO territory.

This proposition will continue the dedication of up to twenty-five (25%) of Metro's sales tax revenues for the period of October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2025 to Harris County and the 14 cities within Metro's jurisdiction for street improvements and related projects as authorized in the current GMP funding criteria. In addition, METRO's proposal will allocate the growth in the sales tax after 2014 through a methodology called Incremental Collections in which 50% will go to jurisdictions within Metro's service area and 50% will remain with Metro for general mobility purposes. There will be no increase in the current METRO one cent sales tax rate.

The outcome of this proposition may affect future roadway and infrastructure projects in the City of Humble, the City of Houston, and unincorporated areas of Harris County within the Lake Houston region with the future growth that we will experience in this area. An example of projects completed with these funds include the Will Clayton overpass and road expansion, Wilson Road expansion, and the Townsen overpass, intersection, and road expansion.

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## City Council Member Mike Sullivan's October Town Hall

On Monday, October 15, District E City Council Member Mike Sullivan hosted his last town hall meeting, as he is retiring from the city council to run for Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector in the upcoming election. The agenda of the meeting included the following speakers and topics/updates:

- Rep. Huberty—Update
- Christi Whittington—Kingwood Library
- Mark Ross—Parks Dept.—Update on Kingwood Community Center
- Chip Perry—General Services Dept. —Update on Lake Houston Wilderness Park
- Director Harry Hayes- Solid Waste Dept.— Upcoming changes on heavy trash pick-up
- Stan Sarman—TIRZ 10—Discussed the proposed new fire station
- Jeff Weatherford—Public Works & Engr.
- Lt. Parris Ponton—Houston Police Department
- Mark Vine—Severn Trent Services



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## The Village at Hickory Glen Groundbreaking Ceremony

On the morning of October 23, a groundbreaking ceremony was conducted for the Village at Hickory Glen apartment homes. The Village at Hickory Glen is a 501c3 non-profit corporation “formed to provide affordable housing to individuals with developmental disabilities.” After four years of tireless efforts from many in the community, the corporation’s mission has been realized, as construction is set to start on a complex of fifteen apartments including a club house with facilities for meetings, exercise, and laundry. The project brought together MHMRA of Harris County and Village Learning & Achievement Center, two organizations supporting disabled individuals and their families.

State Representative Dan Huberty was in attendance at the event, which included a welcome by Michele Dykstra, community relations coordinator for The Village, and several speakers, including Kim Brusatori, founder and CEO of The Village, and a representative of Council Member Mike Sullivan. For more information on Village at Hickory Glen please contact Jennifer Smith, Chief Operations Officer of the Village, at 281-358-6172.



## **NASA Announces Start of 2012-2013 High School Aerospace Scholars**

NASA recently announced the launch of the 2012-2013 High School Aerospace Scholars (HAS) project. HAS enables selected Texas high school juniors to explore new frontiers and become a part of NASA's plan for space exploration.

Selected students will apply their math and science skills to complete 8 web-based assignments during the school year to be competitively selected to travel to Johnson Space Center in Houston during the summer to put those skills to use. At Johnson, they will design and propose a mission focused on deep space exploration alongside their peers as well as NASA scientists and engineers.

Eligible students are required to meet the following criteria: U.S. citizen; Texas resident; currently a high school junior; has an interest in science, math, or engineering; able to commit to a relationship with Johnson, including a one-week residential experience during the summer and has access to the internet and e-mail (home, school or public library).

The state of Texas, in partnership with Johnson and the Texas educational community, developed HAS in 1999 to encourage students to pursue studies and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. More than 6,800 students from across the state have participated. Additional partners include the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Rotary National Award for Space Achievement and University of Houston System.

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## **Texas Youth Summit**

The Texas Youth Summit will bring together 2 student delegates from each Senate District in Texas on January 13-16, 2013 to give youth the opportunity to create environmental prevention strategies for reducing the harmful effects of tobacco in Texas, as well as to look at real issues facing Texans today. The topic areas include:

- Smoke-free indoor air
- Tobacco taxes
- Sustained prevention funding

At the conclusion of the Summit, the delegates will unveil their strategies for how Texas policymakers should address tobacco use in Texas through personal visits with their State Representatives and State Senators. The delegates will not be lobbying for existing legislation, but rather will be advocating for an issue they would like to see addressed.

If you know of an outstanding young person in District 127 that you would like to nominate to attend the Texas Youth Summit, do not hesitate to consult the registration information available at [www.TexasYouthSummit.com](http://www.TexasYouthSummit.com). Don't miss this opportunity to give a young individual a chance to learn more about public policy and to polish important leadership skills!

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## **Electronic Waste Recycling - "What If" Campaign**

The City of Houston Solid Waste Department and CompuCycle are providing monthly one day E-Recyclable collection events on the first Saturday of the month at the Kingwood Metro Park & Ride lot. This is primarily for City of Houston residents, but CompuCycle says no one will be turned away. They guarantee that all data will be permanently destroyed and that electronic items will not end up in our landfills. If parts of the equipment can be reused, they will make sure that this is accomplished, and no parts will be sent to Asia or Africa. Since the program began last year, collections have averaged about 15,000 pounds per month. CompuCycle is able to salvage for reuse or sell almost all materials.

Items accepted: TVs, PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, switches, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cell phones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables, cameras, toner cartridges, stereo equipment, CD's, floppy drives, VHS tapes, hair dryers, curling irons and straighteners, alarm clocks, irons, radios, and electric fans. Any small appliance with a plug can be donated. Also, CompuCycle has a mobile hard drive shredder to shred hard drives on-site for residents.

The What If Campaign was created as a partnership between CompuCycle, the Easter Seals-Greater Houston, UHY Advisors LLC and The Council for Corporate Responsibility. The net proceeds from all pick-ups between September 15th to November 15th be used to establish a training program for individuals with disabilities. This training will lead to employment in the electronics recycling industry. For the 8 weeks of the "What If" campaign, they have set a goal of collecting 500,000 pounds of e-waste in and around Houston. That e-waste will directly benefit the newly created program and allow for training courses to be developed for future expansion.

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## The Clubs of Kingwood Hosts “State of the State” Forum

A forum was held at Deerwood Country Club on Wednesday, October 24 in which several elected officials were given the opportunity to answer questions and provide insight into local, state, and federal government. The forum was divided into the State of the Union (Ted Poe, U.S. Congressman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District), the State of Texas (Tommy Williams, Texas State Senator, District 4 and Dan Huberty, Texas State Representative, District 127), the state of the county (Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney), and the state of the city (Stephen Costello, Houston City Councilmember, At Large, Position 1).

The event began with an appetizer buffet/cash bar and mingling opportunity for all in attendance. Following a welcome from CJ Johnson, KCC Board of Governors/Social Chair, the forum Mrs. Cynthia Calvert-Shiflet, owner and editor of The Tribune Newspapers & Steep Creek Media, was introduced as the moderator and emcee for the evening. Each speaker was given approximately eight minutes to give a biographical statement and answer a couple of questions pertaining to his level of government. There was also time for questions and comments from the audience at the conclusion of the forum. These types of events afford an excellent occasion for members of the community to learn more about policymaking and government pertinent to each and every citizen, and are especially informative in this election season.



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## Meeting with HARTA members

On Friday, October 5, Representative Huberty met with several representatives from the Humble Area Retired Teachers Association (HARTA): Carolyn Monroe (President of HARTA), Susan Burroughs (member of HARTA), Marcy Cann (State Legislative Committeewoman for TRTA – District IV), and Ann Hayes (member of HARTA). They discussed increasing teacher retired service (TRS) funding by 6.4%, and increasing funding for TRS-Care, the group retiree health benefits program administered by TRS, by 1%. They also discussed how TRS is funded. The HARTA members and TRTA Committeewoman appreciated Rep. Huberty's time and dedication to their causes.



## H-GAC Survey

In less than 30 years, our region is expected to add 3.5 million people. The Houston-Galveston Area Council and its partners are working on a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development to help local governments prepare for this growth. The survey describes four alternative futures: Current Course, Less Time on the Road, Greener Region and Competitive Workforce. The intent behind the survey is to hear what members of the community think about these alternatives and the tradeoffs involved with each of them. To learn more about the alternatives and make your voice heard, [TAKE THE SURVEY](#), available through November 16.

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## HHSC Women's Health Care Update

Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Kyle Janek, M.D. recently announced that the new Texas Women's Health Program is ready to step in and deliver services to low-income women if Washington cuts off funding to the Medicaid program. Janek said the state would continue to operate the Medicaid Women's Health Program until federal funding is stopped or the state has a final court decision that would require HHSC to violate state law in administering the program.

In the past month, the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals lifted a lower court's injunction and cleared the way for enforcement of a ban against affiliates of abortion providers in the Women's Health Program. Later in the week, a state district judge issued a temporary restraining order preventing HHSC from moving forward with the ban. A hearing on the temporary restraining order is set for Nov. 8. "We remain committed to making sure women have access to family planning and preventive care, enforcing state law, and maintaining the Medicaid funding that is rightfully ours," Janek said. "Federal law gives states the authority to set the criteria for their Medicaid providers, and we're going to defend that right." If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact HHSC External Relations at (512) 487-3300 or [hhscexternalrelations@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:hhscexternalrelations@hhsc.state.tx.us).

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## Legislative Update

Under Rule 8 of the *Rules of the Texas House of Representatives*, members and members-elect (those who have won their general elections but have not yet been sworn into office) are able to file legislation as early as the first Monday after the general election. This means that starting November 12th, legislation will begin to be filed by some members and the direction the House and the Legislature will take in this upcoming session will become more evident. Another indicator will be the Governor's Emergency Item List, which allows the Legislature to hear and debate the issues on the list earlier than the rules dictate. This nuance enables issues that Governor Perry feels are pertinent to the agenda of the Senate and the House and should be dealt with earlier than other pieces of legislation, thereby hopefully ensuring their passage. All of this leads up to the big question of the moment: what will be the biggest policy issues the Legislature tackles in the 83rd session?

Serving on the Public Education Committee, Rep. Huberty will have to focus on the challenges we face as a state with education, both financially and structurally. There have been some shifts made in the Senate Education Committee, with Senator Patrick appointed to serve as Chairman. Senator Seliger was appointed as Chairman of Higher Education. It is still unknown who will fill the chairman spot of the House Public Education Committee, or which members will be assigned to the current four empty seats on that committee. It is also unsure who will be chairing the House Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services Committee, which handles public pensions, such as ERS and TRS. All members are keeping a close eye on the proceedings of the current school finance law suits, as they know they will be responsible for making the necessary changes in how to fund education after the conclusion of the trials.

Another on-going issue facing the state is that of electric reliability. The House State Affairs Committee had their final interim hearing last week on the reliability of our "grid" and where that will trend in the coming years. There have been discussions over the last several months on the "demand market", which means that the power generators produce power when the customers demand it. There are other deregulated electric markets that operate on a "capacity market", which means that generators are first paid to produce power, not necessarily in relation to what is demanded.

These are just a few of the issues that the legislature will be dealing with in the upcoming session, but they will be only a part of the varied policy discussions and legislation that will be debated and discussed in those 140 days.

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## Call for Kingwood Area Volunteers

Volunteer instructors are needed for senior programs at the new Kingwood Community Center to teach chair aerobics, crochet, jewelry making, quilting, senior yoga and Tai Chi. Operated by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the Kingwood Community Center is located at 4102 Rustic Woods, Houston 77345. If you can teach any of these classes and/or have other skills to serve the community, email [justin.hagendorf@houstontx.gov](mailto:justin.hagendorf@houstontx.gov) or call 281.348.2570.

All HPARD programs for seniors are offered **free** of charge, although some classes require participants to furnish their own materials or pay a supply fee. For more information on the Kingwood Community Center, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/communitycenters/cc-kingwood.html>. To learn more about the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).

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## Atascocita BizCom Meeting

On Thursday, November 1, an Atascocita BizCom meeting was held at Atascocita High School which featured several speakers who gave updates and insight on ongoing community initiatives:

- Bill Daniels, the new principal of Atascocita High School gave a school update.
- Kevin Kilgore spoke about the new Golf Preserve of Atascocita, located on the site of the defunct Atascocita Country Club. More information on this developing project can be found at [www.gpofatasca.com](http://www.gpofatasca.com).
- Rick Yarbrough (vice president of Land Development, McCord Development) gave an update on Generation Park, a large energy-sector oriented business park to be located just south of West Lake Houston Parkway along Beltway 8. In January, McCord is expected to announce a Fortune 10 company and a Fortune 500 company as the first couple of corporations investing in Generation Park, [www.GenerationPark.com](http://www.GenerationPark.com).
- Dee Jones of Junior Achievement spoke on the volunteering opportunities within classrooms in the community to help students find their place in our global society.
- Dr. Guy Sconzo, Humble ISD Superintendent, wrapped up with an update on the district and the state of the district's ongoing legal challenge against the state over school finance.

The meeting was very well-attended, with lunch provided by Hometown Chef and Apple Moving providing dessert.

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## ALL Class Series on Lake Houston

On Monday, October 22, Representative Huberty hosted a class on Lake Houston at the Academy for Lifelong Learning's (ALL) College Atascocita Center. Representative Huberty's lecture included the following:

Although frequently overlooked by Houstonians as a viable lake, Lake Houston is actually the water source for the fourth largest city in our nation. The necessity to keep Lake Houston healthy goes far beyond many city residents can fathom. The Lake was originally designed to be the 50 year water plan for the City of Houston. As it grew, city planners saw the need to plan further and purchased the rights to the water in Lake Conroe, and then Lake Livingston, as back-up reservoirs to the original. Now there are projects underway to garner even more water for the City via the Luce's Bayou project, which will pipe water from the Trinity River directly to the ever-growing Westside of Houston.

Residents from the Lake Houston area know the great amenities it has to offer and for many years, the lake has been the best kept secret in Houston, allowing fishing, boating, swimming and all-around outdoor fun along the banks. But now, there are many groups working together to improve life on Lake Houston and publicize the available activities.

State Representative Dan Huberty has worked with legislators across the State to shed some light on the largest issue for Lake Houston: the ever increasing amount of silt settling here. Years of unregulated sand-mining operations along the banks of the San Jacinto river, which feeds Lake Houston, has caused it to be named one of the most polluted rivers in the nation. Last legislative session, Rep. Huberty and State Senator Tommy Williams worked with industry leaders to craft and pass legislation to regulate legal sand-mining operations and punish illegal operators.

When he returned to Houston from Austin in 2011, Rep. Huberty again joined forces with Senator Williams, but this time included Congressman Ted Poe in their campaign to clean-up Lake Houston. They went directly to Mayor Annie Parker to ask for the City of Houston's assistance in dredging the San Jacinto River, Lake Houston and the bayous that flow from the lake through many neighborhoods in our communities. Seeing the fiscal note associated with the project, the City of Houston declined the proposal to dredge the river and lake, which were completely dry at the time. Since that time, Rep. Huberty has been working on a possible public-private partnership to oversee the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston, which now have water in their banks, but are beginning to recede once again. It is vital for the residents of Lake Houston to be educated and aware of the many benefits and challenges that the river and lake will face in the coming years.

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## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, November 3

9:00 AM E-Waste Recycling  
Kingwood Park-N-Ride

### Tuesday, November 6

#### 7:00 AM Election Day

7:00AM North Harris County Criminal Justice Association Meeting  
Italiano's on FM1960 East  
\*This month's meeting sponsored by Representative Dan Huberty

### Wednesday, November 7

10:30AM Humble ISD Education Foundation Golf Tournament  
Kingwood Country Club  
11:00AM Kingwood Chamber of Commerce TOY DRIVE Luncheon  
The Nathaniel Center

### Thursday, November 8

6:00PM HCDD Public Hearing  
City Hall Annex; 900 Bagby Houston 77002

### Friday, November 9

7:30AM Annual Wildcat Salute to Veterans  
Humble High School

### Saturday, November 10

10:00AM Veteran's Day Service  
Creekwood Middle School Honors Garden

### Sunday, November 11

#### Veterans Day



**MEET THE STAFF** of your transit authority at METRO's first open house. Customers, contractors and the community are invited to attend and learn more about the variety of services METRO offers and METRO's plans for 2013.

Plus don't miss our special speaker series (see reverse side), where you'll have the opportunity to hear from METRO decision makers from throughout the Authority.

#### QUESTIONS?

Contact Tiko Reynolds-Hausman  
713-739-6032 or TH15@ridemetro.org



## AGENDA

#### 4:30 – 4:50 PM

Welcome – State of METRO  
George Greanias, President & CEO

#### 5:00 – 5:20 PM

METRO IT Panel – Forming a Successful Partnership with Government  
Rik Deere, METRO  
Reggie Brown, METRO  
Patty Brimlow, METRO

#### 5:30 – 5:50 PM

Office of Small Business – METRO Mentor Protégé Program  
Kimberly J. Williams, METRO  
Tiko Reynolds-Hausman, METRO  
Steve Granson, HDR  
Mike Martin, KBR  
Gary Coles, MV Transit

#### 6:00 – 6:20 PM

Procurement – How to Do Business with METRO  
Michael Kyme, METRO

#### 6:25 – 6:45 PM

Capital Programs / Facilities Maintenance - State of Good Repair  
Darrell Burtner, METRO  
Freeman Taylor, METRO

#### 6:50 – 7:30 PM

Service Design and Development – Putting the Pieces Together to Deliver First-Class Transit Services  
Kimberly Slaughter, METRO  
Clint Harbert, METRO  
Kurt Luhsen, METRO  
Tanya McWashington, METRO  
Russ Frank, METRO