



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDERAL FUNDING SECURED FOR MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY

New building will enhance emergency response times and operational efficiency for Houston

HOUSTON – The City of Houston has received notification from U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski's office that federal funding has been secured for a new joint facility to house the city's Public Works and Public Safety departments. The funding was announced as part of Senator Murkowski's Designated Congressional Spending appropriation.

Project Background

This strategic facility has been in development for several years, initially proposed by the previous city administration and championed under Mayor Cole's leadership. For the past two and a half years, Mayor Cole has actively pursued federal funding to bring this critical infrastructure project to fruition.

Facility Features and Location

The new facility will be strategically located near the intersection of Cheri Lake Drive and White Rabbit Circle on dedicated city land. The multi-purpose building will include:

- Fire department offices and operations center
- Public works headquarters and administrative offices
- Secure vehicle garage to protect equipment from weather, vandalism, and theft
- Maintenance bay for fleet servicing
- Community meeting room for public gatherings
- Space for emergency sheltering during a disaster

Enhanced Public Works Operations

Currently, many city winter maintenance vehicles are stored outdoors, resulting in theft, vandalism, and operational delays. The new indoor facility will protect valuable municipal equipment while enabling faster emergency response during winter storms, as crews can deploy immediately without warming up equipment.

Improved Fire Department Coverage

The facility addresses a critical service gap in Houston's western areas. Currently, some properties along Anthony Rd, Cheri Lake Dr, and Anastasia Dr are more than five miles from the nearest fire station, and many homes in the Enchanted Forest Subdivision are over 1.5 miles from the nearest fire engine. This distance directly impacts many residents' insurance premiums through ISO ratings. The new station will significantly reduce response times and enhance mutual aid capabilities for these residents and for the western Meadow Lakes community.

Expanded City Hall Public Services

Relocating Public Works operations will free up valuable space at City Hall, allowing for expanded public meeting areas and private offices for citizen consultations. This improvement will enhance accessibility and comfort for residents conducting city business.

Next Steps

The city has preliminary construction plans that will be refined once final funding amounts are confirmed. Updates to the project's timeline and construction progress will be provided as they become available. The City Council will need to accept the appropriations to move forward with the project. The introduction of that appropriation will be at a regular meeting soon.

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Photos of Houston personnel and vehicles can be made available on request
Interviews may be authorized through Mayor Cole (907-892-6869)