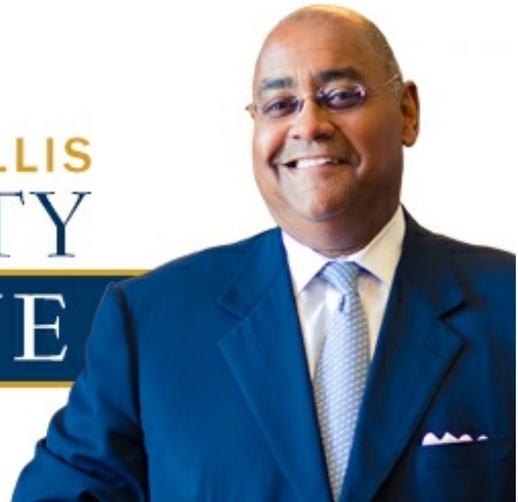


COMMISSIONER RODNEY ELLIS
HARRIS COUNTY
PRECINCT ONE



Dear Friends,

Today, we will witness one of the time-honored traditions at the core of our democracy: the peaceful transfer of power through the inauguration of a new Presidential administration. While the road to this day has been long, and at times difficult, with many wishing to sow doubt in our democratic institutions, I believe that we have many reasons to hope for the possibilities that lie ahead.



Now is the time to turn the ideals of our democracy into realities -- what we stand for and what we stand against must be reflected in the foundational policies and laws that govern our society. Everyone

deserves to live with dignity. Today, we will pause and celebrate a historic moment, and recognize that we have an opportunity to move forward together, united in the fight for justice and equity.

Here in Harris County, we are combining our hope with a great deal of work as we continue to prioritize fair

opportunity for everyone.

We are **hopeful for meaningful action on economic inequality**, which left many who were already struggling before the pandemic especially vulnerable to its health and economic impacts. Over the past year, we had to make tough decisions on how local and federal recovery dollars would be used, allocating as much as we could to direct financial assistance so that struggling families had the resources and flexibility to meet their basic needs. But we know that more help is needed to ensure long-term economic equity. We are hopeful that the proposed increase to the federal minimum wage and additional direct financial assistance, coupled with recovery efforts centering on equity at the local level will provide meaningful progress to uplift those who are most vulnerable.

We are **hopeful about re-imagining public safety around the health and well-being of our communities**. Also, we are ensuring that we invest in measures that address poverty, mental illness, homelessness, and substance use with the resources and care that people need, rather than through the oppressive system of mass incarceration, which has ravaged communities of color for too long.

We are **hopeful about meaningful action on climate change as we work to find new ways to protect our planet and our people while creating sustainable energy**. As Harris County begins the work of bringing our community together to develop our climate action plan, we are excited to partner with the new administration on initiatives to ensure our communities are climate-ready. And throughout this process, we will center on environmental justice: because all of our residents deserve to be protected against flooding, have access to sustainable mobility and transit options, and have a clean and healthy environment.

And we are hopeful about turning the incredible momentum from the past year pushing for racial justice into **meaningful actions to ensure equity across the board**.

From advancing economic justice to reforming the criminal legal system, the work of systemic change is only beginning. But if those of us who believe equity is worth fighting for commit to holding our new administration accountable, I am confident that **the next four years can bring meaningful progress toward the equitable world we wish to see.**

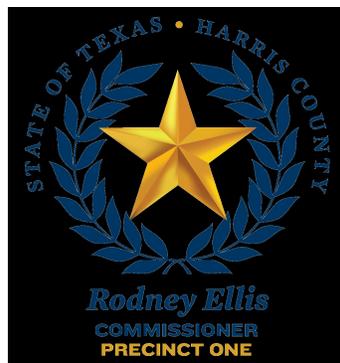
As we continue to remain alert to potential threats of violence and disruption from extremists who wish to derail progress, as well as those in power who seek to enable and encourage them, we will remain focused on the real work being done so all people can live with dignity and in peace.

Together we can re-imagine a new future where we all thrive and live among one another respectfully. Today is the start of that new future, and we are excited to witness it.

Sincerely,



Rodney Ellis



Commissioner Rodney Ellis
Harris County Precinct One
1001 Preston, Suite 950
Houston, TX 77002

