



**LINA HIDALGO**

September 9, 2020

AGENDA LETTER

Commissioners Court  
1001 Preston Street, 9th Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Commissioners:

The following item is recommended for the September 15, 2020 Commissioners Court agenda:

Request for discussion and possible adoption of the Harris County vision and policy-area goal statements that Commissioners Court representatives developed collaboratively as part of an Operational Review Visioning Process.

As part of its Operational Review of Harris County departments, PFM Group Consulting LLC facilitated an Operational Review Visioning Process ("Visioning Process") during which Commissioners Court representatives worked collaboratively to develop an overall vision and policy-area goal statements for Harris County that are intended to promote strategic planning and decision-making by Harris County leadership toward common goals.

The Visioning Process took place from April to September 2020. Participants reviewed other counties' vision and goal statements and engaged in lengthy discussions about aspirations and priorities for Harris County governance and community outcomes. Commissioners Court representatives from all five offices reviewed, discussed, refined, and approved the vision and goal statements that are submitted for adoption. The vision and goal statements thus reflect a range of views and expertise across multiple disciplines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lina Hidalgo".

Lina Hidalgo  
County Judge

LH/jm

## **Vision Statement**

Harris County will build a more dynamic, vibrant, and resilient community while being inclusive, equitable and transparent in all that we do.

## **Goal Statements**

### **Justice and Safety**

Harris County will promote safe, healthy, thriving communities through restorative and evidence-based strategies that foster public trust, prevent violence and trauma, reduce racial and economic disparities, and minimize criminal justice system exposure where at all possible.

### **Economic Opportunity**

Harris County will promote an inclusive and resilient local economy by working aggressively to remain competitive over time and expand opportunities for workers, small businesses, and community-driven investments while addressing historical and current economic inequities in doing so.

### **Housing**

Harris County will increase access to, incentivize, and invest in quality, affordable, and flood resilient housing that is widely accessible throughout the county, builds safe and healthy neighborhoods, facilitates economic opportunity, and provides access to recreational green spaces for all residents.

### **Public Health**

Harris County will improve overall health and quality of life by implementing preventative and responsive public health strategies, providing access to affordable and high-quality health care, and addressing the social determinants of health to eliminate disparities and achieve health equity.

### **Transportation**

Harris County will promote accessible, affordable, equitable, reliable, safe and sustainable transportation options and networks to facilitate efficient movement of people and goods throughout the region.

### **Flooding**

Harris County will reduce flood risk and strengthen resiliency through holistic, equitable, and effective prevention, mitigation, and response strategies.

### **Environment**

Harris County will combat the underlying causes and disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities by making community-driven improvements to air, water, and soil quality, committing to the use of clean energy, improving flood resiliency with natural infrastructure practices, reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and providing every resident access to quality green spaces.

### **Governance and Customer Service**

Harris County will exemplify high-quality, transparent, and accountable government by using data and best practices to invest taxpayer dollars wisely; by continually reviewing and improving the effectiveness of our policies, programs, and services; by recruiting and retaining a talented and diverse workforce; and by engaging with, and providing outstanding customer service to, all of our communities.