



**End- of- Year Newsletter**



**2022**



## Friends and neighbors

First of all, I want to wish all of you a very happy and safe holiday season. For those of you celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa may this period be of great blessing for you and your loved ones.

The end of the year is a time to wind down and reflect on the past year. It is a time to recognize accomplishments, look back on the journey of the past year, and set goals for the upcoming year. 2022 has been a busy year for our At-Large 4 office and we have achieved much. I am proud of the work my staff has done to help constituents overcome difficulties and the huge strides we've made in achieving the policy goals we set at the end of 2021. We will continue to work for the people of Houston as we have done.

It has been my honor to serve as your At-Large 4 Council Member for the last three years and I look forward to serving you in 2023 and beyond.

Wishing everyone a great start to the New Year! Please read on to see what we have achieved this year and how my office has served the great people of this city.

Sincerely,



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# Our Achievements in 2022

*“As an At-Large Council Member, I have the privilege of legislating for the whole city. The policies I create are research driven and are based on needs identified in our communities.”*



## **AWARENESS FOR TENANT LIVING CONDITIONS**

Through our efforts, City Council, the Mayor and media heard from tenants about living conditions in many apartments across Houston and those tenants were able to receive help.

## **APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL INSPECTORS**

At the FY2023 Budget meeting, we had approval for eight additional health/habitability inspectors.

## **STRIKE TEAM FOR PROBLEMATIC APARTMENTS**

Spotlighting tenant issues and problematic apartment complexes resulted in the Mayor forming a Strike Team that could very quickly address issues. My At-Large 4 office works closely with the Strike Team.

## **TENANT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

I made state and local procedures available in an easy-to-understand format IN English, Spanish and Korean.

## **MOBILE CRISIS OUTREACH TEAMS (MCOT)**

I continued to advocate for the importance of MCOT teams. This year City Council approved 20 MCOT teams for non-violent, non-criminal, mental health 911 calls. The team includes a Licensed Clinician or Master Level Clinician paired with a Bachelor Level Clinician.

## **FUNDING FOR EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS AND TRAINING**

After many meetings with Houston Forensics and Science Centre, I advocated for additional funding for them in the Fy2023 budget meeting. In July City Council approved \$3 million of ARPA funds.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS**

Throughout 2022, I advocated for victims of domestic violence, attended and spoke at many events to bring awareness to the issues surrounding domestic violence in Houston.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

I continued meeting with communities impacted by the Cancer Cluster as well as health experts, other elected officials to further understand the impact as well as work towards a solution. We created a collaboration with Subject Matter Experts for data collection.

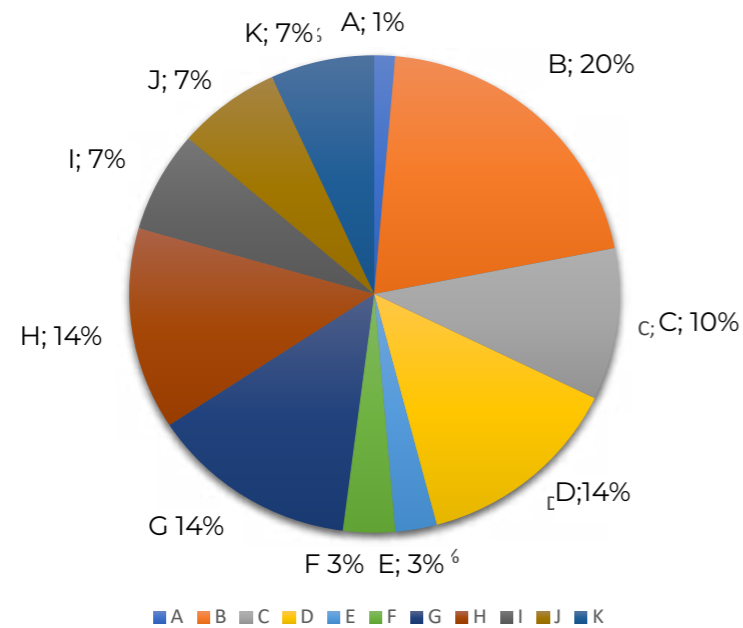
## **NHHIP (I-45 Expansion)**

I continued to advocate for a better I-45 design that would protect green spaces such as White Oak Bayou, prevent displacement of communities, provide essential drainage and flood mitigation while protecting historic Communities. On December 19, 2022, the City of Houston, Harris County and TXDOT signed an MOU. While not perfect, it covers aspects of what I have advocated for over the years.

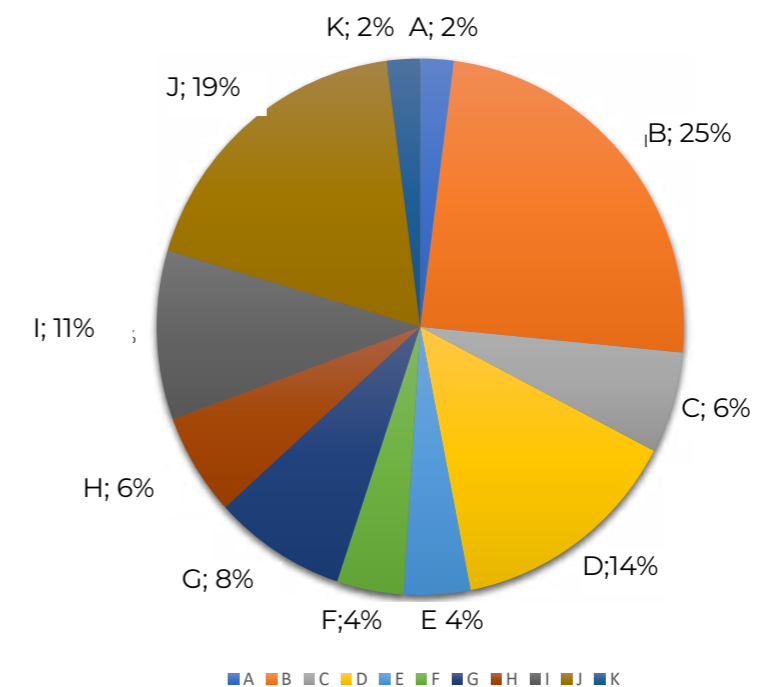
# AT-LARGE 4 OFFICE

*At-Large 4 serves constituents across all eleven districts and takes care of a wide variety of issues across the City of Houston. Here's a snapshot of our work in 2022.*

**Constituent Service Requests : Breakdown by District**



**APARTMENT HABITABILITY COMPLAINTS: BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICT**



**TOP CONSTITUENT ISSUES**

- Apartment Habitability Issues
- Evictions
- Homelessness
- Rent Relief / Other Resources
- High Water Bills
- Trash Pick Up
- Air Quality
- Illegal Dumping
- Cancer Cluster /Union Pacific
- Freeway Expansion Impact
- Deed Restrictions
- Sidewalks
- TIRZ
- Neighbourhood Changes (Historic, Development etc.)
- Permits
- Stray Dogs/Dangerous Animals

**TOP CONSTITUENT ISSUES**

- Leaky Ceilings
- Roach/Rat Infestations
- Bed Bug infestations
- Sewage Backup
- Lack of hot water
- No Air/Heat
- Broken Locks
- Landlord Issues (withheld deposits, withheld belongings)
- Raised Rent
- Mold
- Damaged Personal Belongings
- Evictions
- Broken Windows
- Landlord Supplied Appliance Issues
- Illegal Eviction
- Retaliation



# AT-LARGE 4

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Safety/ Environmental issues

- Frequent meetings with Cancer Cluster impacted constituents and advocates
- Participated in Pleasantville Disaster Preparedness
- Participated EJ & Climate Justice Super neighborhood Forum
- Frequent engagement with communities impacted by I-45 Expansion and I10 elevation
- Meetings with Air Alliance, COCO and communities impacted by Port Expansion and Air Quality issues in multiple districts
- Engaged with constituents for and against the 11st Street project
- Engaged with constituents to further explain the 4f park designation for White Oak Bayou

### Community Impact

- Assisted numerous seniors with obtaining air conditioning units for their home
- Connected seniors and families to broadband services through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- Organized and participated in pet pantries with the Houston Humane Society
- Assisted constituents with high water bills
- Made site visits to problematic apartments and coordinated action with the Mayor's Strike Team
- Worked with non-profits to provide emergency rental assistance to families, emergency groceries and hot meals
- Worked with Housing Advocates, Organizations, and tenants to create Houston's first Houston Tenants Council (more information coming soon)
- Assisted Harvey impacted constituents with GLO application, pre-build/-post build repair and maintenance.
- Assisted GLO with obtaining permits from the City of Houston



### Food Security

- Met with subject matter experts and attended several panels and webinars
- Met with community leaders and constituents impacted by food deserts and food swamps
- Continued with food drives throughout the year
- Assisted urban gardens with recovery from winter freeze and connected them to resources
- Conducted thorough research on community needs, health impacts, and long and short term solutions for food deserts, while partnering with multiple organizations including a local grocery store

## AT-LARGE 4 STAFF

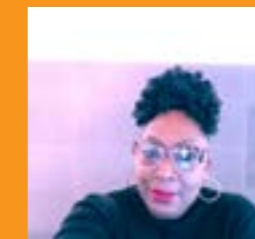


Munira Bangee  
**Chief of Staff**

“  
*My At-Large 4 team supports my vision of Houston by creating city wide policy, conducting research, taking care of constituent issues and keeping my calendar synchronized so that I can meet with stakeholders and constituents.*  
”



Veronica Xiloj  
**Deputy Chief**



Katherine Washington  
**Executive Secretary**



Cece Scott  
**Director of Constituent Services**

# Council Member Letitia Plummer

## 2022 At A Glance

Advocated for Houston at the Texas Capitol regarding Winter Storm Uri and asked the Legislature for changes

Supported organizations applying for air monitoring grants and devices



Visited numerous apartments to highlight deplorable living conditions of tenants to advocate and legislate for tenant protections

Joined community advocates in asking HUD Secretary Fudge for Houston's fair share of disaster funding

Supported new and small businesses throughout Houston

Celebrated Houston's diversity at the University of Houston with students from diverse backgrounds

Hosted pet pantries with the Houston Humane Society



Adopted a dog to raise aware about #adoptdontshop, fostered multiple dogs that resulted in adoption

Attended multiple chambers of commerce events to celebrate small businesses

Attended the National League of Cities conference to better legislate for our residents

Participated in my first Ms150 and completed over 100 miles of riding to bring awareness and fundraise for Multiple Sclerosis research

Joined State officials and members of the community to ask TCEQ to strengthen its rules on permits

Assisted grassroots organizations with applications for funding by providing letters of support and connecting them with resources

Advocated for residents of Riverside Terrace to have their voice heard

Engaged young people in government from Kindergarten to University students, including international students





# Council Member Letitia Plummer

## 2022 At A Glance

Wrote letters and made phone calls for our SEIU janitors to have fair pay and better working conditions

Attended a national conference on creating equity in large cities

Supported Unite Here local 23's Bill of Rights for Workers

Joined community members, city and county officials to send a 90 day notice to Union Pacific

Brought awareness to city contracts not achieving MWSBE goals

Participated in multiple back to school events to ensure a successful start to the school year

Had tenants specifically added to the City of Houston Legislative Principles for the 88th Legislative session.

Supported artists across Houston by attending meetings and connecting them to resources

Continued supporting organizations advocating for the removal of lead from drinking water in schools

Celebrated Houston's diversity by attending community cultural events

Visited the Sister City of Abu Dhabi in the UAE, along with Dubai, to create economic opportunities for Houston

Represented and advocated on behalf of the City of Houston on the Houston Galveston Area Council

Advocated for Houston Fire Fighters to receive Hazard Pay during the FY2023 Budget meeting

Met with residents living in food deserts and engaged with community leaders on long term, sustainable solutions

Continued to advocate for the protection of Houston's green spaces for flood for resilience, flood mitigation and better quality of life for residents.

