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Office of Council Member
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District F

Friday, July 18, 2025
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Council Member Tiffany D. Thomas Hosts Third Annual Swim Safety Clinic to Promote Water Safety and Save Lives

HOUSTON, TX — July 18, 2025 – In an effort to prevent drowning and raise awareness about water safety, Council Member Tiffany D. Thomas is hosting the **2025 Swim Safety Clinic** for District F families and youth as part of her *Summer of Safety Series*, diving into water safety with a fun, free, and life-saving swim event for families across District F and beyond.

The event is part of Council Member Thomas' continued commitment to quality of life, community health, and equity in access to recreational safety training.

The clinic will take place on **Saturday, July 26, 10 AM – 12 PM** at **Alief Neighborhood Center, Houston, TX 77072** and has reached max capacity of youth ages 4 – 13 from all swim levels. Certified instructors will lead interactive sessions focused on basic swim techniques, water survival skills, and drowning prevention education.

"The Alief Aquatic Center is one of the newest pools in the city, but it means nothing if we don't have enough lifeguards and if the community doesn't fully use it because of the lack of swim skills. Today is about removing barriers and introducing how swimming can be a safe experience," said Council Member Thomas.

According to the CDC, drowning is a leading cause of death for children ages 1–14. Black children are statistically more likely to have limited access to swim lessons and are at greater risk of drowning. Council Member Thomas's Swim Safety Clinic seeks to close these gaps through targeted, free, and culturally responsive programming.

Why does this matter? In 2024 alone, Houston saw 163 drowning-related hospital visits – 14 of those were fatal. Council Member Thomas wants to change that.

Council Member Thomas further emphasizes, "In District F, many families live in apartments without access to supervised pools. Through this program, parents and children are learning

exactly what to do in the event of an emergency. Too many low-income families have been shut out of access to pools for generations. We're removing barriers so every child, regardless of zip code or income, can be safe around water."

Community partners include **Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Houston Waves Swim Club, and Coach CPR**. Council Member Thomas welcomes **Outdoor Afro** as a new national sponsor, supporting the goal of creating 2,000 new swimmers nationwide. **Wal-Mart** is proud to provide in-kind donations of sunscreen. **Tropimix Refresqueria** will donate 50 free mini popsicles for the event.

"At Outdoor Afro, we believe that everyone deserves access to joyful and meaningful connections with our nation's waterways," said Rue Mapp, Founder and CEO of Outdoor Afro. "Through our Making Waves program, we are helping thousands of Black communities across the country build lifelong relationships with water—whether it's through swimming, paddling, or simply learning to feel at home in aquatic spaces. We are proud to be a national sponsor of this important event in partnership with the City of Houston and Council Member Tiffany Thomas."

The event will also include family-friendly activities, safety demonstrations, and an opportunity for an Outdoor Afro Scholarship to be awarded in the form of a reimbursement to applicants of up to \$200/swimmer or \$400 total per family to cover the cost of beginner-introductory swim lessons with any swim provider between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025.

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About Council Member Tiffany D. Thomas

Tiffany D. Thomas is the Houston City Council Member for District F, the most racially and economically diverse district in Houston with the largest West African population in the United States. She is the first woman to serve in this role. Council Member Thomas is currently in her 2nd term. She is a proud, long-time resident of District F.

For media access, inquiries, or to schedule an interview with Council Member Thomas, please contact Lisa Rosborough at 832-547-6106 or lisa.rosborough@houstontx.gov.

For general District F inquiries or community concerns, contact the District F at 832-393-3002 or districtf@houstontx.gov.