



The Honorable John Whitmire
901 Bagby Street
Houston, TX 77002

Re: City of Houston FY27 Budget Support

Dear Mayor Whitmire,

On behalf of the Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA), and our more than 1,500 organizations that work in single-family homebuilding industry across the Greater Houston area, we write to express our support for the proposed FY27 budget and the tools used to close the budget gap.

We support the Mayor's overall approach to addressing the City's budget challenges, including the creation of a dedicated solid waste fee and the use of enterprise fund resources to help support core services. We also appreciate the Mayor's willingness to engage stakeholders throughout this process and the effort to be transparent about both the challenges and the proposed solutions.

We recognize the need to move beyond one-time fixes, including selling property and utilizing federal funds, and begin addressing the City's underlying structural issues. Creating a dedicated funding source for solid waste is a step in that direction and helps more clearly tie the cost of services to how they are funded and puts the city in line with other major cities across Texas that have existing trash fees.

That said, we think it's important to be mindful of how these changes could be used in the future. Treating solid waste as a utility could set a precedent that future administrations build on. In particular, we would be concerned with any move toward impact fees or similar mechanisms that would raise the cost of housing and make it harder to deliver attainable homes for Houston residents.

Affordability is already a major challenge for many Houstonians. As the City considers implementing a solid waste fee, it will be important to look at the total impact on residents, across the years that the fee is phased in from \$5 a month to ultimately \$25 a month.

The GHBA stands ready to serve as a resource as the City continues to refine and implement these policies. We appreciate your leadership in addressing Houston's fiscal challenges and look forward to continued collaboration.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bolio'.

Chris Bolio
GHBA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aimee Bertrand'.

Aimee Bertrand
GHBA Executive VP & CEO