

# YALE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



**Rev. T. Leon Preston, II**  
Senior Pastor

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Chairman of Deacons

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Church Secretary/Administrator

City of Houston  
Mayor John Whitmire  
P. O. Box 1562  
Houston, Texas 77251

May 4, 2026

## To Whom It May Concern,

Greetings Honorable Mayor Whitmire and Houston City Council. I write in my personal capacity as Pastor of Yale Street Baptist Church and as one engaged in the civic life of our city, to express my support for Houston's plan to strengthen and stabilize its budget through thoughtful funding modernization. Houston stands at a critical juncture, shaped by rapid population growth, rising service and infrastructure costs, and years of limited revenue growth due to property tax caps. While the City has exercised notable fiscal discipline, including a reduction in the FY2026 adopted budget and ongoing efficiency measures, it is evident that efficiency alone cannot sustain the long-term demands placed upon a city of Houston's size and significance.

I believe, the proposed funding measures offer a balanced and responsible solution. The Right-of-Way Rental Fee, structured as a percentage of utility revenues, reflects a fair and widely accepted principle that those who use public street space should contribute to its maintenance, without increasing water rates or user fees for residents. In addition, the proposal to establish Solid Waste as a Municipal Utility includes a modest \$5 monthly administrative fee, maintained for at least two years, coupled with a use-based structure to ensure fairness. This approach creates a stable and dedicated funding stream, aligns Houston with practices in other major cities, and helps reduce continued pressure on property taxes while improving service reliability.

From both a pastoral and civic perspective, I believe these modernizations represent sound stewardship and needed progress. They are designed to protect vital city services, strengthen infrastructure, and ensure that Houston remains a place where communities can thrive. I respectfully encourage careful consideration and support of this plan, as we work collectively toward a stronger and more stable future for our city.

May we continue to work together for the good of our great city.

Sincerely,

*Rev. T. Leon Preston, II*

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