



# 2026 MOREHOUSE TAKES CITY HALL

*a stop on the Morehouse Takes Houston tour*

*March 28, 2026*

Houston City Hall  
901 Bagby St., Houston, TX 77002  
9:00 a.m.

*Welcome to Houston*



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- I. WELCOME + CITY HALL ORIENTATION ..... 09:25 AM  
Alexander "Alex" Smith, Deputy Director of Strategy, Planning & Implementation  
Will Walker, President, Morehouse Houston Alumni Association
  
- II. TOUR OF CITY HALL + COUNCIL CHAMBERS ..... 09:30 AM
  
- III. OPENING REMARKS ..... 10:00 AM  
Chris Hollins, City Controller  
Kenneth Ugo, Morehouse SGA President
  
- IV. PANEL ON LEADERSHIP ..... 10:30 AM  
Moderator: Aubrey C. Hooper, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief of Staff  
Participants:  
John Gilmore IV  
Bryce Kennard  
William (Trey) McDonald III  
Eric Tait
  
- V. CITY RECOGNITIONS ..... 11:00 AM
  
- VI. MOREHOUSE HYMN ..... 11:05 AM
  
- VII. CLOSING REMARKS ..... 11:08 AM

CHRIS HOLLINS  
CITY CONTROLLER

*Master of Ceremonies*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY CONTROLLER

Dear Men of Morehouse,

Welcome to Houston.

It is both a personal and professional honor to greet you on behalf of the City of Houston City Controller's Office. As a proud alumnus of Morehouse College, I understand firsthand the significance of the experience you are undergoing and the standard you are called to uphold.

Morehouse does more than educate—it prepares you to lead. It instills discipline, sharpens your perspective, and challenges you to operate with purpose. As you engage with leaders, institutions, and opportunities throughout your time here, I encourage you to carry yourselves with confidence and a commitment to excellence in every setting.

Houston is a city of opportunity, innovation, and impact. It is also a place where Morehouse men continue to lead, serve, and make meaningful contributions across sectors. I hope this experience not only broadens your perspective but also reinforces the limitless possibilities ahead of you. Know that you represent not only yourselves, but a legacy of leadership that demands integrity, discipline, and what we know well—unapologetic excellence.

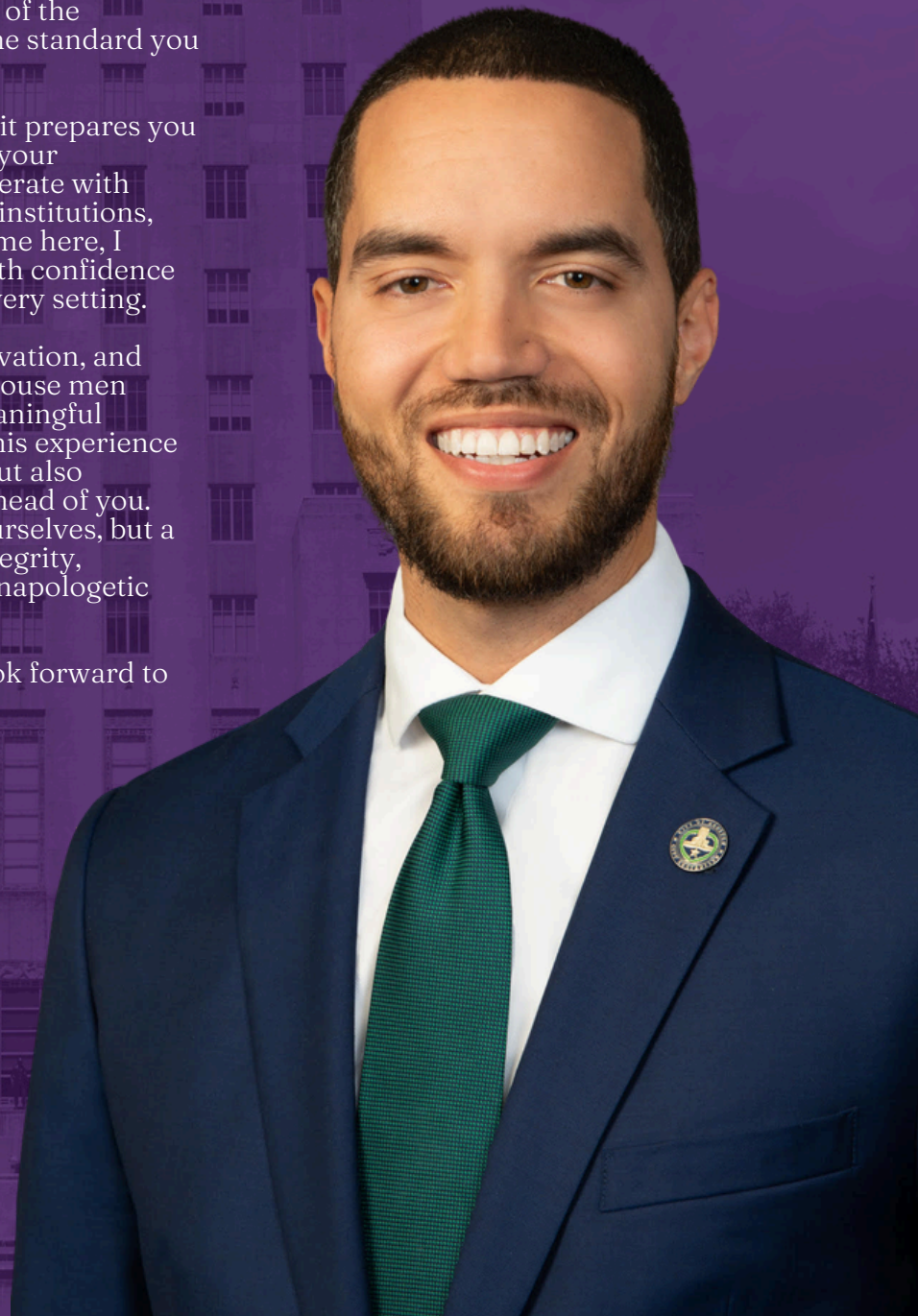
We are proud to welcome you and look forward to your continued success.

In brotherhood,



**Chris Hollins**

*Houston City Controller*



# MOREHOUSE TAKES CITY HALL CITY CONTROLLER



## **Chris Hollins**

*Houston City Controller*

Chris Hollins is a native Houstonian who has served as Houston City Controller since January 2024. As the independently elected Chief Financial Officer of the nation's fourth-largest city, he provides oversight of a budget exceeding \$6 billion and manages the City's \$6 billion investment and \$14 billion debt portfolios. Controller Hollins prioritizes transparency, fiscal responsibility, and results-driven operations, using the office's auditing authority to implement best practices that improve service and reduce costs for residents.

Previously, Hollins served as Harris County Clerk, where he gained national recognition for protecting and expanding voting access for 2.5 million voters during the 2020 election. His leadership introduced innovations including drive-thru voting, 24-hour voting, online mail ballot tracking, and expanded early voting access, contributing to record voter turnout.

Hollins earned a Bachelor of Arts with Phi Beta Kappa honors from Morehouse College and completed a joint JD/MBA program through Yale Law School and Harvard Business School. He is admitted to the Texas State Bar and Southern District of Texas federal courts. He lives in Houston's Third Ward with his wife, Morgan, and their two children.

# MOREHOUSE TAKES CITY HALL PANEL MODERATOR



## **Aubrey C. Hooper**

*Chief Administrative Officer and Chief of Staff,  
City Controller's Office*

Aubrey Christopher Hooper is a seasoned leader with more than 30 years of experience in public service, nonprofit leadership, and community engagement. He has held senior leadership roles, including Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Houston Controller's Office, as well as leadership positions with Harris County, Dallas County, and in private-sector law firms. He also previously served as a campus administrator within the Dallas County Juvenile Department and as an elected school board trustee with DeSoto ISD. He is the President and Chief Diagnostic Officer of Blind Spot Diagnostic, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in leadership development, branding, educational program development, community engagement, and fundraising. A transformational civic leader, he has served in prominent NAACP roles at the local, state, and national levels, becoming the youngest national board officer in the organization's history at age 34. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the NAACP, and holds degrees from Morehouse College and The University of Texas at Arlington, and has completed executive leadership training at Harvard University and Rice University.

# MOREHOUSE TAKES CITY HALL SPEAKERS



## Alexander "Alex" Smith

*Deputy Director of Strategy, Planning & Implementation, City Controller's Office*

Alex Smith is a strategic leader with over a decade of experience in consulting, technology, and public sector innovation. As Deputy Director for the City of Houston Controller's Office, he leads initiatives focused on operational excellence, transparency, and organizational transformation. He previously worked at Accenture and Google, advising Fortune 500 clients on strategy and digital transformation.

Alex serves on the board of Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc., is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and a graduate of Morehouse College, with additional executive education from Rice University.

## Will Walker

*President, Morehouse Houston Alumni Association*

William Walker is an electrical engineer and supply chain leader with over a decade of experience in energy, manufacturing, and global sourcing. A graduate of Morehouse College and Georgia Institute of Technology, he serves as a Procurement Engineer at TMEIC, managing a \$120M global portfolio supporting large-scale solar projects. He is recognized for driving cost efficiencies, ensuring quality and delivery, and leveraging data to inform strategic business decisions. He also serves as President of the Houston Morehouse Alumni Association.



# MOREHOUSE TAKES CITY HALL SPEAKERS



**Bryce H. Kennard**

*Director of Community Affairs & Partnerships,  
Harris County Sports and Convention Corporation*

Bryce Hairston Kennard is a community relations and communications executive with experience across government, corporate, and public affairs. He currently serves as Director of Community Affairs and Partnerships for the Harris County Sports and Convention Corporation at NRG Park. Previously, he led external affairs for Comcast Texas and corporate communications for CITGO. He serves on several nonprofit boards and holds a degree from Morehouse College, with additional studies in Community Development and corporate communications from Rice University.

**Eric S. Tait, M.D., MBA**

*Investment Fund Manager, Vernonville Asset  
Management*

Eric Tait, M.D., MBA, is an investment fund manager at Vernonville Asset Management, where he oversees a diverse portfolio of alternative assets totaling over \$350 million. He is also a board-certified internal medicine physician and founder of the Diabetes Center of Houston. Dr. Tait is a partner at Urban Capital Network, expanding access to venture investments, and remains active in community and professional organizations. He earned his degrees from Morehouse College, Rice University, and Baylor College of Medicine.



# MOREHOUSE TAKES CITY HALL SPEAKERS



## **John Gilmore IV**

*Senior Managing Director, Walker & Dunlop*

John Gilmore IV is a senior managing director at Walker & Dunlop, specializing in affordable housing development and financing nationwide. With 15+ years of experience, he has closed over 100 multifamily deals totaling \$2 billion and 22,000 units. Previously, he was a senior VP at KeyBank, expanding its affordable housing lending across all 50 states. Gilmore holds a finance degree from Morehouse College and serves on several real estate industry councils.

## **William “Trey” McDonald III**

*Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP*

William “Trey” McDonald is a litigator and dealmaker focused on sports, media, technology, and entertainment. He represents corporations and high-profile clients, handling matters such as NIL deals, media law, endorsements, and corporate structuring. Trey has negotiated landmark NIL agreements for top athletes and represented clients including C.J. Stroud, Micah Parsons, Savannah James, NFL super-agent David Mulugheta, and Sony Pictures Television. He previously practiced at a national law firm and helped launch sports tech company Lockerverse.



# MOREHOUSE TAKES CITY HALL PARTICIPANTS

## FACULTY/ADVISORS

DAMON BELLMON  
DEAN KEVIN BOOKER  
TINA THOMPSON  
PRISCILLA HUBBARD  
NKOSI LEARY

## MOREHOUSE TAKES HOUSTON PARTICIPANTS

KENNETH UGO	JADEN BRIDGETT
ARMANI OLIVER	JAMES ODOM
ADIAN PATTERSON	JARAMIS DEFLANDERS
ADIN LEWIS	JARED MCKENZIE-SMITH
ADRIAN SQUARE	JIVONNE FELICIANO
ANDREW MCFALL	JOSHUA ANDRE
ANGELO BAKER	KEYSHAWN WARD
BENNETT REICH	KYNSINGTON HOBBS
CALEB BRYAN	LINDEN YOUNG
CAMREN CALLENDER	MYLES BRAZZLE
CHASE WOODARD	NATHANIEL GOODWIN
COLLIN MCNATT	NEDAV DANIEL-MITCHELL
DAYMOND JOHNSON	NOAH BOYNTON
DEMETRIUS BROWN	SHEIK KANTE
DERENN HOLLMAN	SIEBREN MAPP
DILLAN RUSSELL	STEVE PRESHA
DON-TRAE DAVIS	SURRELL TAYLOR
ELI REESE	THEODORE HERVEY
ERIC SPRAGINS	TK THOMAS
EVERETT EVANS	ZENDO ROUSON
HOYT JACKSON	



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