



## Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

May 12 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will go over updates from the State, City and County; hurricane preparedness, updates from Harris County Flood Control on the bridge work in Meyerland, and a special request from our marketing department.

### **Updates from the State, City, and County**

One Houston City Council Member has tested positive for COVID19 after experiencing symptoms. The Mayor announced that beginning May 20<sup>th</sup>, City Council [meetings will take place virtually](#). The Mayor also stated that we should expect to see the largest budget deficit that City has ever faced and around [3,000 City employees will be furloughed](#) beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

During his press conference today, the Mayor once again underscored the importance of face coverings and social distancing as we deal with the unknowns related to COVID19.

Governor Greg Abbott has announced an [extended early voting timeframe](#) for the July 14<sup>th</sup> runoff elections. Early voting will begin June 29<sup>th</sup> and run through Jul 10<sup>th</sup>. There was some hope that the Governor would allow COVID19 to count at a sickness under the vote by mail provisions, however that has not happened yet. You will need to vote in-person during the early voting period or on election day, unless you qualify for a mail-in ballot under [normal circumstances](#). In Harris County, you can vote at [any polling location](#) during early voting and on election day. Efforts are being explored to determine the safest way to vote during the pandemic. So, mask up and head out to vote!

The Governor also [extended the Disaster Declaration](#) for the State of Texas due to COVID19. This will allow the State to continue to access federal funds.

### **Hurricane Preparedness**

The National Hurricane Center is watching a system near the Bahamas that will likely develop into a subtropical system by the weekend. While this storm is not expected to move our way, it is a reminder that Hurricane Season is almost here, officially beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Office of Emergency Management has resources on how to prepare for the upcoming [Hurricane Season during COVID19](#).

### **Meyerland Bridge Updates**

Harris County Flood Control District is still moving ahead on the [bridge work along Brays Bayou](#). The Hillcroft Bridge will begin construction soon, in spring 2020 and should be

complete by this summer. The bridges at S. Rice and Braeswood and Chimney Rock and Braeswood are slated to begin this winter and take about a year to complete. It is anticipated that the bridges will remain open during construction.

The Federation worked hard with other community leaders to ensure the bridges at Chimney Rock and S. Rice remain open during construction to help with traffic in the area and to ensure our Jewish families have safe routes to walk along on Shabbat. We are hopeful that this will continue to go as planned.

### **Is Jran Helpful? Tell Us More!**

Our marketing department is searching for stories that highlight the Federation's Jran work. They want to know if Jran has helped, supported you or connected you to resources during the COVID19 process? Tell them how great Jran is by emailing Elyse Freed, [efreed@houstonjewish.org](mailto:efreed@houstonjewish.org) with a few sentences about how it's made a difference for your organization. We would be so appreciative!

### **In Other News...**

The big news in entertainment today was the announcement that ["Hamilton" will be released on Disney+ on July 3<sup>rd</sup>](#), just in time to remind us how our Country got started before we celebrate. So, break out your [Federalist Papers](#) (just me?) and sing along to your favorite Constitutional tunes.

Take care today and I hope you find yourself in the "Zoom where it happened" (IT JUST WRITES ITSELF!),

Jackie

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