

## How We Are Empowering Our Communities by Strengthening Programming

Since Commissioner Adrian Garcia took office, he has made it his goal to empower the people in our community by strengthening the programming in Precinct 2. These initiatives focus on improving the overall quality of life in the Precinct by creating fun, informative, and useful engagements, with the objective to make Precinct 2 a place where people can work, play, and live.



Here is a snapshot of what our team has been doing:

- One of the areas of focus has been to improve access to healthcare in our Precinct; thus, this commitment has led to a stronger partnership with Harris County Public Health. In the direction of this focus, we have hosted several Health Villages in many areas of the Precinct where residents of all ages are in much need of healthcare. As well as opening a new health clinic in 2020 at Riley Chambers Community Center to help the surrounding community have an equal opportunity to health resources.
- To provide preventative services in the Precinct, we have increased the participation of our homebound and congregate meals, and commodities programs where seniors have access to healthy meals throughout our community centers; and collaborated with major health centers, such as Baylor College of Medicine and MD Anderson Cancer Center to increase cancer awareness in our communities.



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- With Precinct 2 being the lowest in education attainment, our programming services work to increase the engagement with our youth and provide them with more opportunities that are fun and educational. In efforts to this, Grayson Community Center added a new summer campsite to offer field trips to our Precinct 2 students, including opening several of our Community Centers to provide free SAT Prep classes for our high school youth.



- Thanks to our Precinct2cares programs, we have been able to stand side by side with the community of Precinct 2 during tough times. Our Programming Services has hosted food fairs for the federal furlough workers; provided AC units for those without central AC; and equipped our community centers to make sure residents had resources available to overcome their losses from storm Imelda.



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- Aside from empowering our Precinct 2 residents with awareness around health issues, we also create engaging opportunities to educate our community on social topics, such as human trafficking, fire safety, fraud, and county government.
- Our 2019 National Night Out throughout our Precinct 2 Community Centers provided needed resources to our communities. This event is essential to bring communities and law enforcement together and build greater relationships to help prevent crime. This is achieved by informing our residents about all the tools available to help them make decisions that affect themselves and their families in a positive way.
- We also offer opportunities for families to be involved in the community by organizing special events that highlight our Community Centers and Precinct 2 Parks, which have been the home of our “Movies in the Park” events that offer free fun activities for everyone. These events are the perfect opportunities for us to empower our communities by bringing them together and providing different ways to connect. With over an average of 100 people in attendance per event, we have been able to put together the following events, and more:
  - Movie Night in the Park: *Spiderman* at James Driver Park
  - Halloween Movie Night in the Park: *Goose Bumps 2* at Edna Mae Park
  - Movie Night in the Park: *Pokémon* at Rotary Pavilion
  - Movie Night in the Park: *Coco* at James Driver Park
  - Fishing Tournament at Sylvan Beach Park



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- North Shore Futbol Club
- Along with our youth, families, and seniors, our veterans are of great importance within our Precinct. These are the individuals that stood on the front lines and fought for our freedoms. In Precinct 2, we want to value all of their efforts and sacrifice; thus, we are proud to announce the opening of our new V.V. Ramsey Veterans Center located in Channelview. Our Precinct 2 Veterans needed a place of their own and with Commissioner Garcia and our Programming Services team, we made sure to make this happen. This has also led us to the Yellowbird Bike Trail Project at Jim and JoAnn Fonteno Park, which is in partnership between Harris County Precinct 2 Programming division and Operation Yellowbird (a military veteran's organization that construct bike trails). Their mission, *"To enrich the lives of our brother/sister Veterans by bringing them together in nature for camaraderie, networking, and support in an effort to reduce Veteran suicide rates, and assist with the transition to civilian life."*
- In addition to investing in the growth and success of the constituents of Precinct 2, we also commit to Engage, Educate, and Empower our Precinct 2 staff. Various training to our staff has been conducted this year to ensure our Precinct 2 staff is equipped with the necessary tools to be of service to the residents of Precinct 2. Mental Health First Aid Training, Active Shooter Training, and Shelter Training with American Red Cross are some of the few we have conducted.

As you can see, the last year has been very busy and we are not stopping here. As we work to create engaging programming that strengthens the communities of Precinct 2, in the months to come, we will be increasing our programs, services and opportunities to make Precinct 2 the place Commissioner Adrian Garcia envisions. You, too, can become part of this movement by becoming a Precinct 2 volunteer! For more information on how you can get involved, please contact Chara Bowie at 713-274-2124. Together, we can make Precinct 2 a better place!