

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Office of Council Member
**TIFFANY D.
THOMAS**
District F

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COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL FAITH & AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUMMIT

HOUSTON, TX – Council Member Tiffany D. Thomas, District F, will host her signature [Faith & Affordable Housing Summit](#) on **Oct. 10** from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at The Collective, 12401 S Post Oak Rd, Houston, TX, 77045.

Building on past success that drew hundreds of attendees, the summit returns to bridge the gap between faith communities and real estate professionals, developers, and financial institutions to explore opportunities to transform underutilized land into affordable housing for Houston communities. The event will also feature a special announcement launching a new community project fund to support emerging developers.

Across the U.S., faith-based institutions and local organizations hold over [2.6 million acres of underutilized land—enough potential to support 800,000 new homes](#). Growing initiatives like “Yes in God’s Backyard” (YIGBY) are unlocking these underutilized assets to address critical housing shortages. As a pioneer mobilizing local faith communities, Council Member Thomas has kept Houston ahead of the national curve, foreshadowing recent federal efforts like Rep. Adam’s proposed “[Faith-Based Affordable Housing Predevelopment Fund Act](#).”

“A lot of times faith communities have a vision from God but are missing the technical assistance or direct access needed to navigate city guidelines and federal dollars,” said Council Member Thomas, Chair of the Housing and Affordability Committee. “We listened to feedback from past years and intentionally elevated this summit to be far more interactive. With dedicated discussions on Opportunity Zones and introducing an interactive design element, we’re giving attendees up-close, direct access to partners. This hands-on approach removes historical barriers so leaders can turn their vision into tangible community housing projects.”

Keynote Speakers & Featured Guests:

- Christian Menefee, U.S. Congressman (TX-18)
- Mayor Pro Tem Martha Castex-Tatum, District K Council Member
- Pastor Rudy Rasmus, Co-Founder & Executive Director of Bread of Life Inc.; Pastor Emeritus of St. John's United Methodist Church, and other civic and faith leaders
- Banking executives and developers including Fifth Third Bank, Huntington Bank, Houston Land Bank
- Nonprofit organizations from LISC Houston to Houston Community Land Trust
- City of Houston leaders from Houston's Housing and Community Development Department and the Mayor's Office of Economic Development
- Harris County Office of Public Administrator Assessor's Office
- The Kinder Institute's Kinder Center for Housing and Neighborhoods.
- University of Houston Institute for Housing, Homelessness, and Health

“At New Faith Church, our mission of ‘Conveying the Light’ calls us to serve our neighbors with compassion, dignity and love—especially those who have faithfully served their families and communities throughout their lives,” said Leader Pastor Dr. Andre J. Lewis. “We believe safe, affordable housing is essential to ensuring that our seniors can age with stability and a strong sense of community. Through our participation in this summit, we hope to learn, build partnerships and discover meaningful ways to continue conveying the light by supporting seniors and helping create communities where they can thrive.”

“Safe, stable, and affordable housing is foundational to economic mobility and the well-being of families,” Judson W. Robinson III, president and CEO of the Houston Area Urban League. “The Houston Area Urban League is participating in this summit because advancing housing opportunities is central to our mission of empowering communities and helping families build lasting financial security.”

Registration is requested [by Oct. 2](#). Registered attendees will have access to exclusive vendor resources.

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Tiffany D. Thomas is the Houston City Council Member for District F, of which she is a longtime resident, representing Alief, Westchase, Tanglewilde, Briar Meadow, Westmont, and the historic Piney Point. As Chair of Housing and Affordability for the City of Houston, she oversees priorities related to Housing, Homelessness and Disaster Recovery.

For media inquiries or to schedule an interview with Council Member Thomas, please contact Monique Welch-Rutherford at 832.374.5977 or monique.welchrutherford@houstontx.gov

For general District F inquiries or community concerns, contact the District F at 832.393.3002 or districtf@houstontx.gov.