

City of Houston, Texas, Ordinance No. 2025-960

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XVI, CHAPTER 40, CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS, RELATING TO SITTING AND LYING UPON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS, BY ADDING AN AREA WITHIN AND SURROUNDING THE EAST END AREA BETWEEN CHARTRES, BUFFALO BAYOU, 75TH STREET AND CAPITOL AS A DESIGNATED AREA COVERED BY SUCH ARTICLE; CONTAINING FINDINGS AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING SUBJECT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Article XVI of Chapter 40 of the Code of Ordinances (“Civility Ordinance”) proscribes certain conduct on the sidewalks in the areas to which it is applicable; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the Civility Ordinance may be extended to and made applicable in designated areas in the City by petition; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 40-353(i) of the City Code, City Council may also create a designated area on its own authority provided that City Council receives evidence, substantiated by the police department, that a particular area within the City exhibits a significant incidence of the kinds of conduct addressed by the Civility Ordinance and makes the findings required under Section 40-353(h)(2) and (h)(3) of the Civility Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, in response to testimony and complaints raised by residents and property owners, the City has identified a proposed designated area within and surrounding the East End between Chartres, Buffalo Bayou, 75th Street and Capitol (“East End Area”); and

WHEREAS, the Houston Police Department advises that in the East End Area, during 2024 and 2025 (to present), there were 3,775 calls for service in the following categories: homeless outreach (118), narcotics complaints (81), person down (249), public lewdness (131), self-initiated/CIT investigation (4), suspicious behavior (1,392), trespassing (1,065), and welfare check (735); and

WHEREAS, the Houston Police Department also advises that in the East End Area, during 2024 and 2025 (to present), there were 3,119 calls for service regarding incidents that included some of the following offense categories: intimidation (404), destruction/damage/vandalism (367), drug/narcotic violations (194), trespass of real property (238), theft from motor vehicle (437), simple assault (553), disorderly conduct (47), and drug equipment violations (46); and

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WHEREAS, the City Council finds and determines that the terms and provisions of the Civility Ordinance should be extended to the East End Area; **NOW THEREFORE;**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the findings contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are determined to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as a part of this Ordinance.

Section 2. That the City Council does hereby determine that:

- (1) The East End Area exhibits the kinds of conduct and adverse impact on use of the sidewalks and adverse impact on adjacent properties that Article XVI of Chapter 40 of the Code of Ordinances was intended to address; and
- (2) The designation of the East End Area for coverage under the terms of Article XVI of Chapter 40 of the Code of Ordinances would best serve the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Section 3. That the East End Area shall be as set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes.

Section 4. That the definition of the term *designated area* in Section 40-351 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby amended by adding the next consecutively numbered Item to read as follows:

"East End Area: The area beginning at Chartres at Commerce, going north on Chartres to the Buffalo Bayou, then east/southeast along the southern bank of Buffalo Bayou to 75th street, then south on 75th street to Capitol, then west on Capitol back to where it connects with the Union Pacific rail line, as described in Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 2025-960¹, a copy of which is on file in the office of the city secretary."

Section 5. That Section 40-352(a)(1) of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

¹ City Secretary to insert Ordinance Number.

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"At any time in the Central Business District, East Downtown Management District Area, East End Area, and any other designated area defined in section 40-351 if subject to the rules and regulations for enforcement issued in compliance with section 40-354 of this code; or"

Section 6. That Section 40-352(b)(1) of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"At any time in the Central Business District, East Downtown Management District Area, East End Area, and any other designated area defined in section 40-351 if subject to the rules and regulations for enforcement issued in compliance with section 40-354 of this code; or"

Section 7. That the City Attorney is hereby authorized to direct the publisher of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, (the "Code") to make such nonsubstantive changes to the Code as are necessary to conform to the provisions adopted in this Ordinance, and also to make such changes to the provisions adopted in this Ordinance to conform them to the provisions and conventions of the published Code.

Section 8. That, if any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void or invalid, the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or their application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby, it being the intent of the City Council in adopting this Ordinance that no portion hereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall become inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality, voidness or invalidity of any other portion hereof, and all provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable for that purpose.

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Section 9. That there exists a public emergency requiring that this Ordinance be passed finally on the date of its introduction as requested in writing by the Mayor; therefore, this Ordinance shall be passed finally on such date and shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; however, in the event that the Mayor fails to sign this Ordinance within five days after its passage and adoption, it shall take effect in accordance with Article VI, Section 6, Houston City Charter.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON 11/12/2025

APPROVED ON _____

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 6, Houston City Charter, the effective date of the foregoing Ordinance is: 11/18/2025.

ATTEST:

CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
Signed by:

Signed by:
Troy D. Lemon
50EA7451720D4B5...

City Secretary of the City of Houston

Mayor of the City of Houston

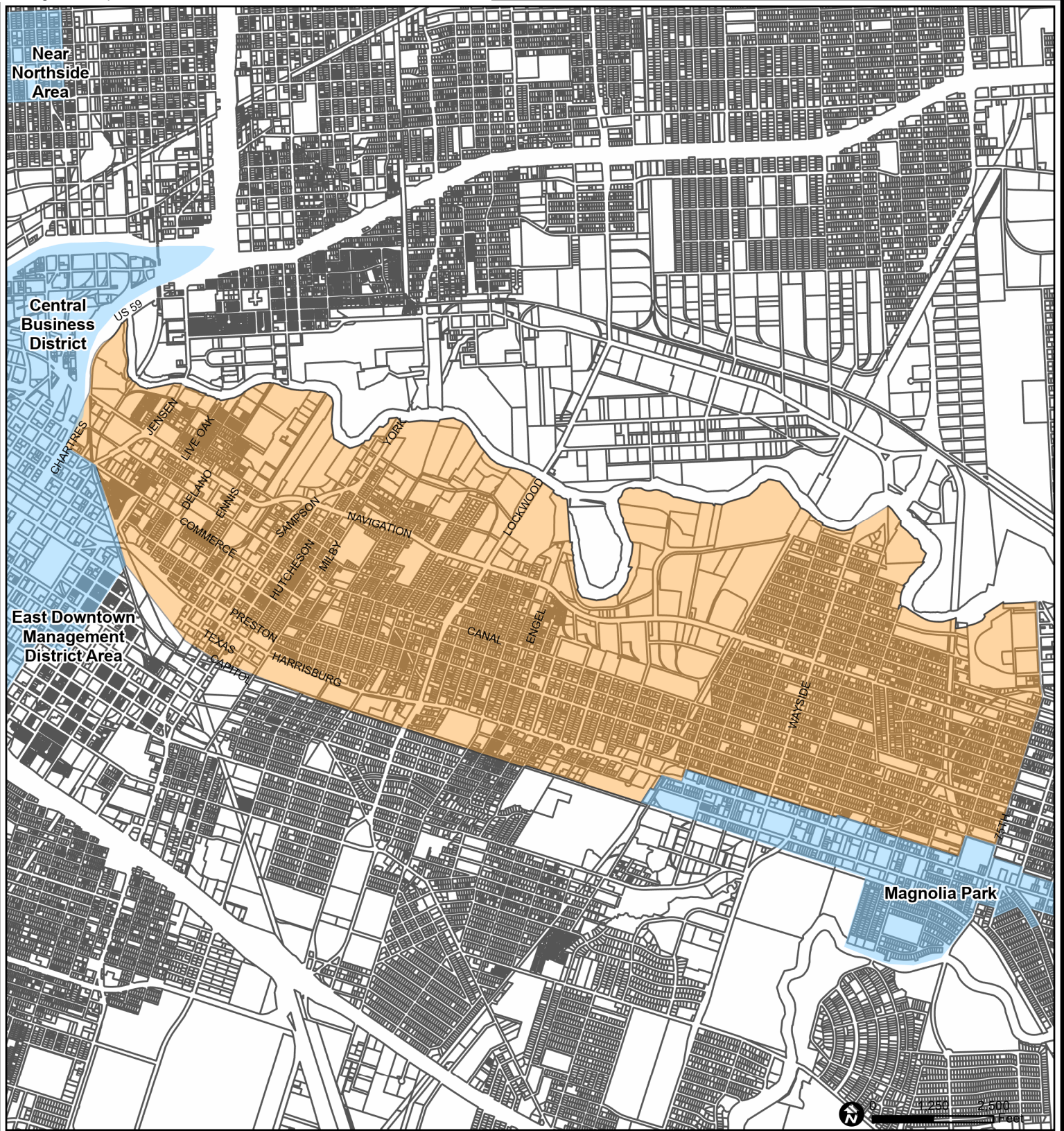
PREPARED BY:

DocuSigned by:
Danielle Folsom
EE3EC2C675D84EA

Senior Assistant City Attorney
DRF/kro 10/31/2025
Requested by Larry Satterwhite, Director, Mayor's
Office of Homeland Security
L.D. File No. LD-GC-0000000585



Exhibit A



Proposed Civility Ordinance Zone

Legend

- East End Area - Proposed Designated Civility Zone
- Existing Civility Zones
- Parcels

Source: Harris County Appraisal District
Date: October 30, 2025

This map is made available for reference purposes only and should not be substituted for a survey product. The City of Houston will not accept liability of any kind in conjunction with its use.



**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**