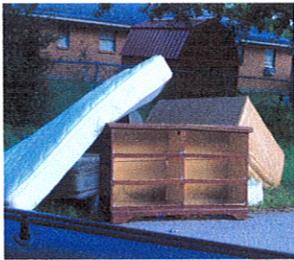


CITY COUNCIL REPORT



MARIE HERNDON, COUNCIL MEMBER (Position 3) November 26, 2013

On November 3, I drove the city taking pictures of some of the properties that detract from the beauty of our communities and city. These properties, and the property owners, make it difficult to attract new residents and businesses. Because of this, I have committed to become a *Code Enforcement Trainee*. Both Mr. Cook, Code Enforcement Officer, and Ms Smith could use the additional help to clean-up and beautify our city. All are urged to take pride in where you live, your property/properties, and our city. Together, working cooperatively, we can do this!



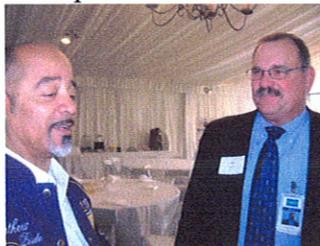
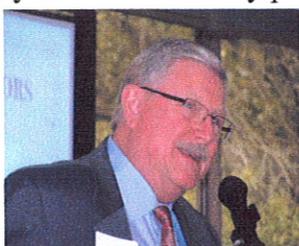
The mayor and I, as representatives on the Prairie View University Safety Committee, meet weekly, on Monday mornings, to continually coordinate and update both university and city officials on efforts to provide a safe, productive environment for all residents and students.

On November 5th I exercised my right to vote. Did you? Hopefully, you did.

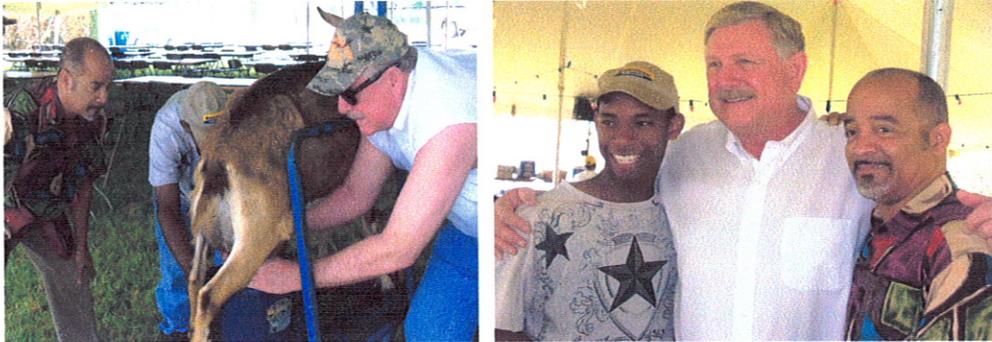
On November 9th, as President of the Texas Association of Black City Council Members (TABCCM), I traveled to the Texas Municipal League Office in Austin, Texas, to conduct a meeting of the Executive Board. We reviewed by-laws and objectives and planned a meaningful year of topics and meeting locations throughout Texas.

The Emergency Services District (ESD) met at Prairie View City Hall on November 13. I attended that meeting, as I have attended other ESD meetings. The meetings are open to the public and I urge all residents to attend. Our tax dollars are used to fund the ESD and we need to be aware of how those funds are being dispersed; and, if the allocations are done fairly, equitably, and where best needed. Are all volunteer fire departments getting their fair share and being treated equally? Get involved. Ask questions. Be informed.

On November 14, as a Board Member, I attended the Waller Economic Development Partnership (WEDP) meeting held at the Waller Country Club. Judge Glenn Beckendorf gave his annual *State of the County* Address. He urged all to be prepared for the growth that is rapidly heading in our direction; and to definitely have our mobility plans in place.



In addition to the strides being made with our “Communiversities” ventures, Judge Beckendorf also mentioned our successful recent Goat Festival, in which he did participate and whose team won the Goat Milking Contest.



Considering the observations made by Judge Beckendorf, I emphasize the importance of our city becoming a “Home Rule” form of government rather than the “General Law” form under which we now function. With Hempstead recently, successfully choosing to become *Home Rule*, Prairie View is positioned to miss the opportunity to protect and expand our Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). We cannot be robbed of this opportunity to protect and expand our city boundaries when this governmental choice appears on our next city ballot.

It seems impossible to thank the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Department enough for constantly and continually putting their lives and safety in jeopardy to protect our lives and property. However, one young man returned from being involved in a near-fatal automobile accident to thank the PVVFD for being one of three departments (Prairie View, Hempstead, and Waller) that was instrumental in saving his life. Carlos Roman is the son of the owner of Amigo Tire Company in Hempstead. Although in a wheel chair now, he and his family remain optimistic about his continued recovery following his 5-month hospital stay. His brother, Leroy, also in the automobile, was hospitalized for a month.



In a special session, the city council approved and welcomed Officer Michael Serges to the Prairie View Police Department. He advanced from reserve to a full time position.



Officer Serges

I shall be working with the university to secure rural development grants that will enable our city to grow and attract businesses. Hopefully we can achieve the status of Stafford, Texas—no property taxes.

On November 20, I attended the meeting of the Prairie View Retired Teachers. Those in attendance were given extremely beneficial information from Mr. Cotton (Prairie View Extension Office) pertaining to “seasoned citizen’s benefits”.



On November 21, I attended the Waller County Democratic Club Meeting which was held at the Hempstead Community Center. The new Hempstead Independent School District Superintendent, Mrs. Delma Flores-Smith, was the guest speaker. She shared her background, vision and goals for the District and her plan for achieving them as well as plans to raise the level of student achievement and their interest in learning. Teachers and parents are inclusive in her plan and they will play a major role in improving HISD. Welcome, Superintendent Smith.



I shall be traveling to Los Angeles over the Thanksgiving Holidays to attend the *Celebration of Life of Istria (Mama) Ross*. Mrs. Ross was a very close friend of mine, and strong supporter of Prairie View University, and the City of Prairie View. She offered encouragement and was instrumental in my becoming involved in municipal government as an elected official.



Mrs. Istria (Mama) Ross