



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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Mayors Newsletter April 2019

Village Center and a New Town Center

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

I have been looking forward to this Mayor's Newsletter for some time. As many of you know, The City of Jersey Village entered into an agreement with a developer, Collaborate Projects LLC, to develop a mixed-use, high density development on Jones Road. This is the culmination of many months of work by City Council and Staff to develop our own "City Center" in Jersey Village. This new "Village Center" will be a location of fresh retail, residential, dining, office and entertainment options the community has longed for and deserves.

Village Center will also contain a new town center with a City Hall. The vision is along the lines of the Sugarland Town Center with a bustling commercial corridor anchored by a municipal complex. The town center will be a vibrant gathering location for community events including an enlarged farmer's market. Current designs include an amphitheater and water feature further enhancing the town center atmosphere. It will embrace and accommodate the needs of our growing community and active citizenry. With that being said, I am aware that relocating City Hall is concerning to some and I think it's important to lay out the justifications for this move.

First off, the City of Jersey Village needs a new City Hall. The current building is dilapidated and in some instances, dangerous. Black mold has been discovered in places and the building has numerous roof leaks. City budgets routinely contain provisions to place band-aids on roof repairs and air conditioning replacement. Our hard-working City Staff are asked to endure a derelict building and work environment that is not conducive to the high work load placed on them. The City Council chambers don't adequately reflect the hidden and embarrassing condition of our City offices where visitors are received. Needless to say, the condition of the building is a poor reflection on the pride we have in our community.

There are a number of reasons for moving City Hall to Village Center instead of rebuilding on the current location. First, it will save the City money. The new building will be incorporated into the design, engineering and construction of other buildings providing a savings through an economy of scale. Fortunately, the City has budgeted for a new building and has the cash to fund the construction. Another benefit is that it will remove some traffic and non-residents out of the residential core of the neighborhood. Ticket payments, permitting and Court activities will be conducted on Jones Road, away from the residential neighborhood. The new location will be approximately one mile away from the current location, closer than the Jones Road grocery stores we frequent more often. There are currently multiple entrances to the Village Center including the Hwy 290 / Jones Road entrance and Highway 529 to Jones Road. The fire station, police station and even a water bill drop box will remain in the residential core. A new town center with a City Hall is designed to work hand in hand with the other components of Village Center. Village Center residents, office tenants, City Hall workers and visitors will patron the retail and restaurants.

Communities in Harris County, surrounding counties and throughout Texas are growing. Older communities like Jersey Village must embrace these growth-based challenges and opportunities or be left behind. A City Hall based town center at Village Center is designed to play an integral part in ensuring we embrace this growth and set the table for future prosperity for Jersey Village.

All the Best,

Justin Ray
Mayor
Jersey Village, Texas