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Councilmember Al Calloway
Houston City Council
District D
P. O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Dear Al,

I was hoping to speak with you personally about my decision to run for the District D City Council position, but before more time passes I want to share these thoughts.

My decision is in no way a personal attack on you.

However, I believe that the democratic process calls for dialogue and debate within our election system. Thus, I believe all elected vacancies should be filled by election and every election position should offer voters a chance to hear issues and philosophies openly discussed and debated. An uncontested election offers no opportunity for meaningful participatory democracy.

While I am sure that there are issues upon which we disagree, the bottom line is that even if we generally have similar philosophies, the electorate should be given an opportunity to hear discussion before voting. I am not naive about my election chances but the importance of insuring a meaningful election dialogue persuaded me to enter the race.

Lastly; I'm not unmindful of the sensitivities surrounding this particular race. The progressive coalition which traditionally has joined Afro-American and gay/lesbian leaders, is an important part of my political philosophy. Gay/lesbian political organizations have historically supported minority and women candidates just as our local Afro-American elected leaders (from Mickey Leland to Craig Washington) have been champions of our cause.

I pledge a clean issue oriented race that will protect the dignity of all the constituents of District D. I know I can expect the same from you.

Sincerely,

Eugene M. Harrington

EMH:gw