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NEWS RELEASE

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT TO RECEIVE STATUS REPORT ON ASTRODOME

*County Attorney, Budget Officer To Summarize Efforts
Of Group Hoping To Redevelop Dome As Convention Hotel*

Harris County officials will present Commissioners Court with a status report Tuesday morning of recent efforts to redevelop the Harris County Astrodome as a 1,300-unit convention center hotel.

Harris County's Management Services Department presented court members with a 110-page report last week outlining a proposal made by Astrodome Redevelopment Corporation to reconfigure the Reliant Astrodome into a hotel. The corporation, known as ARC, had exclusive rights to propose redeveloping the Dome from July 2006 until Jan. 29, when its letter of intent expired. At that time, the county became free to consider proposals from other groups interested in redeveloping the site as well as those from ARC.

Although the county's Management Service Department reports that the draft of a lease agreement with ARC is near completion, County Judge Ed Emmett has said repeatedly that he wants reassurance that the group has the necessary financing to proceed with the project.

"We don't want to see the Astrodome razed, and nobody is proposing such a drastic act," Emmett said. "But we should be extremely careful about pledging ourselves to any multimillion-dollar commercial speculation until we can be certain that the project is truly viable. If it is not, we need to seek other options."

The status report is to be presented to Commissioners Court at its regularly scheduled meeting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008. Commissioners Court meets on the ninth floor of the Harris County Administration Building at 1001 Preston in downtown Houston.