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NEWS RELEASE

JUDGE EMMETT PROPOSES TURNING ASTRODOME INTO WORLD'S LARGEST INDOOR PARK

*Innovative Plan Would Offer Year-Round Venue
For Exercise, Education, Family Gatherings and Community Events*

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett announced a proposal this afternoon to convert the Harris County Domed Stadium – known worldwide as The Astrodome – into the world's largest indoor park and recreation center. Emmett unveiled his proposal from the floor of the Dome, which he described as the realization of Judge Roy Hofheinz's "vision of the future."

"I believe it is time to put forth a new vision for the future of the Dome," Emmett said. "With that in mind, I am suggesting that we explore the concept of creating an indoor park and recreation area inside the Dome for the people of Harris County. The world's largest indoor park."

Emmett has been exploring the indoor park concept with local officials, stakeholders and interested parties for the past couple months, seeking input and suggestions and refining the idea. While details of the concept are still being refined, Emmett suggested leaving it open to the public except when in use by tenants like the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Offshore Technology Conference, or others. He also recommended including a large, open green space that would be perfect for festivals and other community gatherings. Emmett also proposed having a pavilion for music and other events and sporting facilities from archery ranges to hiking and biking trails.

"Rather than try to convert the Dome into something it was never intended to be, I think it is time to look back to the original vision of Judge Hofheinz," Emmett said. "That vision was to provide a place for traditional outdoor activities in a climate-controlled space. A space like none other in the world."