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NEWS RELEASE

JUDGE EMMETT, MAYOR PARKER TO HOST GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR JOINT PROCESSING CENTER

*City, County Officials Join Together to Kick Off Project
Expected to Save Taxpayers Millions*

WHO: Harris County Judge Ed Emmett
Houston Mayor Annise Parker
Harris County Commissioner Jack Morman
Harris County Sheriff Ron Hickman
Houston Police Chief Charles McClelland

WHAT: Groundbreaking Ceremony

WHEN: Noon, today, Oct. 27, 2015

WHERE: 700 N. San Jacinto St.
Houston, TX 77002

Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and other city and county officials will break ground today on a joint processing center that will consolidate and streamline all local inmate booking processes into one facility.

The \$100 million processing center - to be built north of Buffalo Bayou downtown and next door to the county's Baker Street Jail - will be built with bonds approved by county voters in November 2013. Construction will require no tax increase; the county will pay off the bonds with savings produced by the new facility's operation.

The 246,000-square-foot Joint Processing Center is expected to be complete by early 2018. It will handle all inmate bookings and releases for the city and county, eliminating the redundancy of operating two separate systems, as is done now. As a result, the city will be able to shut down its two city jails, freeing up 100 more officers for law-enforcement functions and saving about \$4 million a year in operational expenses. In exchange, the city will contribute \$30 million to the building of the center and will pay the county an additional booking fee per inmate.

The four-floor facility will hold as many as 1,520 inmates and will boast enhanced areas for medical and mental health screening and diversion stations to help provide alternatives to incarceration and expedited processes for paying bonds or fines on the spot. The result is expected to be significantly reduced booking times, allowing city police and county sheriff's deputies to return to their patrols more quickly.

Overall management of the JPC will be controlled by Harris County. The Harris County Sheriff's Department and Houston Police Department will have dedicated space for their officers for compiling reports, drunk driving testing, investigations, evidence control and processing of inmates.

The current timeline calls for the first inmates to be transferred to the processing center in early 2018.

PGAL is the project architect, and Clark-Horizon JV is construction manager.