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NEWS RELEASE

HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE ED EMMETT CALLS ON BUSINESS LEADERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

*Emmett's Sixth 'State of the County Address'
Warns Against Ignoring Infrastructure, Health Needs*

Assuring business and community leaders from around the area that the state of Harris County is "remarkably strong," County Judge Ed Emmett nonetheless warned that the county's future economic health could be threatened if elected officials fail to act with an eye towards the future.

Emmett pointed out that the current "Texas Economic Miracle" is actually the result of the foresight of earlier elected officials and other Texans who recognized the need to invest in the future.

"Harris County government is in solid condition because of wise decisions over a long period of time," Emmett said. "Government officials, business leaders and taxpayers have all understood the necessity of spending wisely to make a better Texas for future generations."

Emmett spoke to approximately 1,000 attendees at the Greater Houston Partnership's annual event at the Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel. It was his sixth State of the County address since becoming county judge in March of 2007. He was introduced by Dr. Renu Khator, the president of the University of Houston and chancellor of the University of Houston System.

Emmett noted that Commissioners Court is expected to pass its annual budget of more than \$1.5 billion tomorrow, but pointed out that "it is a lean budget with clear goals."

"Harris County government, working with the Legislature and others, has shown itself to be innovative in meeting the needs of its residents," Emmett said. "There are few examples in the world of a governmental body that has managed dramatic change and rapid growth as well as Harris County. Previous and current members of Commissioners Court made smart decisions along the way."