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A Shared Vision for the Future of the Texas Medical Center

Ben Taub Hospital is a lifeline to Houston's most vulnerable populations and a national leader in trauma care and medical education. With our city's rapid growth, the hospital is operating beyond capacity, putting access to lifesaving care and training of our future health care professionals at risk. Expansion of Ben Taub Hospital is not just a desire—it is an urgent public health necessity. This necessity was one of many reasons why in 2023 an overwhelming number of Harris County residents voted in support of Harris Health's \$2.5 billion bond which included approximately \$400 million for the creation of a new patient tower for Ben Taub Hospital.

For more than 80 years, the Texas Medical Center and Hermann Park have stood side by side as symbols of Houston's commitment to health, healing, and quality of life. Today, we face a pivotal moment to build on that legacy.

We, the leaders of the Texas Medical Center, fully support Harris Health's proposal to acquire 8.9 acres of parkland across Cambridge Street from Hermann Park's main footprint for the critical expansion of Ben Taub Hospital—one of our region's cornerstone institutions. This land comprises less than 2% of Hermann Park and does not affect key public attractions like the Zoo, Miller Outdoor Theatre, golf course or gardens. Due to space limitations and operational needs, the land adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital is the only viable option for continued care of our community during construction and for the long-term needs of the Ben Taub Hospital.

This proposal honors both our commitment to public health and our responsibility to preserve community assets. We urge our city and county leaders to embrace this opportunity as an investment in a healthier, more resilient Houston.

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