


October 16, 2025

### **Investing in Public Safety and Public Health**

There's a simple question I ask myself before making any major decision as Sheriff of Harris County: Will this action make the people I serve safer? If the answer is a clear "yes," then I move forward with confidence. It is with great confidence, therefore, that I fully endorse Harris Health's thoughtful proposal to expand Ben Taub Hospital to keep the people of Harris County safe and healthy. Moreover, we know that the voters of Harris County also understand the urgent need to expand Ben Taub's capacity, because they overwhelmingly approved Harris Health's \$2.5 billion bond referendum and the \$400 million it set aside specifically for this project.

As Harris County's top elected peace officer, I work alongside the Harris Health team to serve our shared constituents every day. In this capacity, I witness firsthand the professionalism, expertise, and compassion that Harris Health medical providers consistently bring to treating everyone -- from defendants in the county jail to critically injured deputies airlifted to Ben Taub's world-class emergency room. I trust the people of Harris Health to deliver on their word, so I believe in their plan to acquire 8.9 acres of our beloved Hermann Park without harming our Houston Zoo, Miller Outdoor Theater, the golf course, or the serene gardens. They understand what a gem Hermann Park is in our community, and no one is more committed to guarding and protecting it for generations to come.

I encourage our city and county leaders to join Harris Health in bringing this much-needed Ben Taub Hospital expansion from blueprint to reality with all due haste. Will this action make the people we serve safer and healthier? Absolutely.

  
Ed Gonzalez, Sheriff  
Harris County