



# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

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Mayors Newsletter May 2018

Jersey Village In The Middle Of The Ever Growing Harris County

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

Anyone who has had the “pleasure” of driving Highway 290 during rush hour will have a sense that Harris County’s population has exploded in recent years. Those suspicions are valid. A quick look at the numbers:

When it comes to the most populous counties in America for 2017, Harris ranks at third overall with 4,652,980 people. That's up 35,939 people from 2016 when the population was 4,617,041.

The growth of the city of Houston is all but certain to propel the Bayou City past Chicago, making it the third largest city in the US by 2020.

Population in unincorporated Harris County sat at just over 2 million residents in 2016, and is actually more populated than 26 states, passing Louisiana in 2018

Harris County now has more residents than each of the states that border Texas (OK, LA, NM, AR).

Harris County is unique among all counties in the nation for having an unincorporated area population in excess of two million residents. “Harris County Unincorporated” would be the second largest city in Texas, the fifth largest in the U.S. and has a larger population than 14 U.S. states

The explosive growth in Harris County is a testament to the myriad of opportunities and the quality of life in our area. In that respect, the population surge should be celebrated. On the other hand, it presents challenges for local officials. Unlike municipalities, Harris County cannot collect sales taxes and must contend with the needs of a swelling population. The County is increasingly concerned about the ability to provide valuable services, such as law enforcement services, which comes from the Harris County Sheriff's Office — one of the largest in the US — and the various constable's offices; fire services, courts, hospital districts, infrastructure, and flood control and mitigation.

How does this population explosion affect Jersey Village? In the coming years, Harris County will labor to provide services, including public safety. A key facet of life in JV is public safety and it's essential we commit to providing exceptional police, fire and EMS. As the County deals with stretched resources, we must continue to adequately fund and equip our public safety departments. The impending challenges faced by Harris County reinforces the need for Jersey Village to maintain a high level of services and infrastructure for the community.

We must also stay mindful of maintaining the tranquil sanctuary among the chaos that Jersey Village has become. We can continue to make Jersey Village a haven among the sea of cars and concrete that inevitably comes with explosive population growth. Our community must continue to nurture greens spaces such as parks and the golf course. We should also continue to embrace our unique small town community events such as Homecoming, Holiday in the Park, Fall Frolic and Spring Fling among others. It's imperative we continue to embrace these community features to guard against getting lost in an ever growing county and region.

Lastly, Jersey Village is also primed to benefit from Harris County's immense population growth. We are becoming a central population location that is attracting businesses and home buyers. The combination of geography and local services will position Jersey Village to ride the wave of County growth to a bright future.

All the Best,

Justin Ray

Mayor

Jersey Village, Texas