



Houston's City Council confirms new HFSC board member, reappoints chair

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Houston City Council confirmed Wednesday Mayor Sylvester Turner's appointments to the Houston Forensic Science Center's board of directors, including Dr. Stacey Mitchell for a second term as chair and Vanessa Goodwin, an assistant general counsel at Arnold Ventures, who begins her first term.

Dr. Mitchell, a clinical associate professor of nursing at Texas A&M University, has been on the board of directors since 2015 and has served as chair since 2019. Her expertise is in forensic nursing with a specialization as a sexual assault nurse examiner or SANE.

"I am honored to serve another term as the board's chair and continue to guide and watch as HFSC becomes a model for the forensic community," Dr. Mitchell said.

Ms. Goodwin brings a robust legal background to the board, including as a prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. Currently, Ms. Goodwin provides legal counsel to Arnold Ventures, a non-profit dedicated to four issues, including criminal justice.

"I am excited to be a part of HFSC's journey and help it continue on a path of success," Ms. Goodwin said.

City Council also confirmed the reappointments of Philip Hilder, an attorney, Dr. Lois Jean Moore, the former CEO of the Harris County Hospital District, and Dr. Vicki Huff, a professor of genetics and director of advanced technology genomics core at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

“HFSC is truly lucky to have a board that is knowledgeable, dedicated and caring and I look forward to their leadership on this journey to provide Houston with the best forensic services,” said Dr. Peter Stout, HFSC’s CEO and president.

HFSC is a local government corporation that provides forensic services to the City of Houston and other local agencies. HFSC is overseen by a board of directors appointed by the Mayor of Houston and confirmed by the Houston City Council. Its management structure is designed to be responsive to a 2009 recommendation by the National Academy of Sciences that called for crime laboratories to be independent of law enforcement and prosecutorial branches of government.

HFSC operates in seven forensic disciplines.

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