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By:  J. Johnson of Harris H.R. No. 304

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, By demonstrating strong and effective leadership, Houston mayor Sylvester Turner has played a significant role in guiding his community's response to Winter Storm Uri; and

WHEREAS, From February 14 through 19, 2021, Winter Storm Uri brought heavy snow, ice, and bitterly cold temperatures to the city of Houston; before the storm's arrival, Mayor Turner directed resources toward preparing the city's infrastructure and conducted daily news wire briefings from the Office of Emergency Management with advice to citizens on how to protect themselves and their property, and he converted a local convention center into a warming shelter for people experiencing homelessness; while the storm preparations and response were underway, Mayor Turner also continued to lead the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provide guidance to the Houston Health Department's vaccination program; and

WHEREAS, The winter storm resulted in massive power outages that affected millions of households across the state, and in Houston, a boil water advisory was issued due to water shortages and low water pressure levels caused by the extreme weather; for several days as the crisis continued, Mayor Turner organized the distribution of nearly three million bottles of water, and he also coordinated with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and the Mayor's Health Equity Response Task Force to deliver food, water, and other supplies to vulnerable individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Turner has used his platform to inform Houstonians about the underlying causes of the disaster; he has gone on to initiate a city council measure that would keep customers from being hit with high water bills due to water leaks and burst pipes, and he worked alongside Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo to create the Houston Harris County Winter Storm Relief Fund, which has raised more than $7 million to help cover the cost of repairing damage to homes caused by the storm; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Sylvester Turner has set a commendable example of public service during a challenging time for Texas' largest city, and he is deserving of special recognition for all that he has done to lessen the human impact and expedite Houston's recovery from this historic weather event; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby honor Mayor Sylvester Turner for his leadership during Winter Storm Uri and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mayor Turner as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.