



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

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December 15, 2020

Re: Mayor's 2021 Youth Workforce Recovery Pledge

Dear Corporate Partner:

COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of our lives, including my signature youth employment initiative Hire Houston Youth (HHY). In 2019, we provided youth with over 11,000 employment opportunities. When the pandemic hit this year, we were one of the only cities in the country to continue investing in a youth employment program. By spring, unemployment claims rose sharply across all demographic groups including youth, and while COVID-19 significantly reduced the HHY job opportunities in 2020, we persevered. With a vaccine on the horizon, tomorrow will be better than today, and I have set a target goal of offering Houston's youth at least 10,000 employment opportunities in 2021.

The pandemic has been particularly harsh on our youth with the closure of schools and the loss of out-of-school opportunities including employment. The Kinder Institute recently reported that nearly 30% of all unemployment insurance claims in our 13-county region were filed by 16- to 29-year-olds. Youth are not often the primary focus of workforce or economic recovery discussions, but our future is inextricably linked to their success. We need champions, like you, to provide youth with "earn and learn" opportunities.

As Mayor of the City of Houston, I am asking you to take the Mayor's Hire Houston Youth pledge and join a network of partners committed to revitalizing the future of Houston's youth workforce. Join us by completing the form at www.hirehoustonyouth.org/HHY2021. If you have any questions, please visit www.hirehoustonyouth.org or email Brandon Denton at HireHoustonYouth@houstontx.gov.

We are all in this together, and I look forward to working with you as we work to build a stronger, more resilient and sustainable Houston.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sylvester Turner", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Mayor Sylvester Turner
City of Houston