

Board Member Profiles

Advisory Board members represent the customer base that is served by Houston Permitting Center (HPC) business units. We encourage open communication with your representative to ensure your needs will be addressed. Email the board at the following address: hpcadvisoryboard@houstontx.gov.

Position 1: Ricky Kamins

Ricky Kamins represents HPC customers in the business of vehicle for hire. Mr. Kamins has been involved in all aspects of ground transportation in Houston since 1976. He, along with three of his brothers, own Houston Transportation Services LLC, which operates over 400 vehicles in the Houston taxicab market. In addition to working in family-owned operations with interests in Colorado, North Carolina and other Texas cities, Mr. Kamins has been involved with a large New York Stock exchange company operating nationally, with responsibilities overseeing 22 markets with 7,500 vehicles.

Prior to Mr. Kamins worked in advertising and public relations. He was the agency representative for DreamWorks, the film company whose principals include Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen.

Position 2: Gerald Franklin



Gerald Franklin represents HPC customers in the operation of restaurants and in the alcoholic beverage industry. Mr. Franklin has been in the alcoholic beverage industry for over 35 years. After serving as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, Mr. Franklin joined the Gerald Franklin Agency in 1974, a company founded by his father. He became sole owner in 1987. The agency serves individual and chain clients in the retail, wholesale and manufacturing tiers of the alcoholic beverage industry across Texas.

Mr. Franklin is an active advocate for his industry. He is a founder of and the current Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas Association of Beverage License Services. He also represents the firm at the National Association of Licensing and Compliance Professionals. From a civic standpoint, Mr. Franklin is a past Chairman and current Board Member of the ESCAPE Family Resource Center. He also served as President of The National Exchange Club, headquartered in Toledo, Ohio.

Position 3: Vacant

Position 4: Vacant

Position 5: Deborah Hernandez



Deborah Hernandez represents HPC customers in the business of auto repair, body shops, parts sales, or auto sales. Ms. Hernandez has over ten years of experience in the auto industry. When she became co-owner of Able Auto Glass in 1999, she used her business acumen to transform the company's customer service. Able was presented with Angie's List *Super Service Award* in 2010 and 2011, and continues to maintain an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau as a non-member.

Prior to Able, Ms. Hernandez held positions in management, training, sales, and purchasing. She assisted instructors who taught the *Metallurgy for the Non-Metallurgist* course at Rice University. In addition she received the "Outstanding Young Member" award while serving as Vice Chairperson on both the Education Committee and the Publicity Committee of American Society for Metals International.

Ms. Hernandez received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (cum laude) from the State University of New York College at Oswego with a concentration in economics.

Position 6: Ken W. Ulmer

Ken Ulmer represents HPC customers in the business of wreckers, storage lots, or parking lots. Mr. Ulmer has over 20 years of experience in the towing recovery and storage industry. In 1989, he founded K.T.L. Enterprises Inc., a light- and heavy- duty towing and recovery company and vehicle storage facility.

Throughout the years Mr. Ulmer has been an active advocate for his industry. He is a founder of SAFEClear, the premier traffic incident management program in Houston. SAFEClear is being used to substantially reduce accidents, save lives, and reduce traffic congestion. The program has been recognized by the federal government as a star program and is considered by many to be the most successful traffic incident management program in the U.S.

Mr. Ulmer is also a member of the Towing and Recovery Association of America, and is chairman of both the City of Houston Automotive Board and the Education Committee of the Texas Towing and Storage Association.

Position 7: No longer active

This position was historically held by a person engaged in community parks and recreation activity; however, the Parks and Recreation Department relocated from the Houston Permitting Center in 2015.

Position 8: Clayton Black, P.E.



Clayton Black represents HPC customer that are practicing structural, mechanical and civil engineers, and customers that are registered architects. Mr. Black is a partner at Jones & Carter, Inc., a full-service engineering, planning, surveying, and consulting firm. He also serves as a land development department manager. His experience has primarily focused on single-family and multi-family development with specific emphasis on urban development and redevelopment.

Since 2011 Mr. Black has served as the Design Standards/Plan Review Committee Chair for the Houston chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies, an organization supporting the professional and economic development of engineering firms small and large.

Mr. Black received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston.

Position 8 (ad hoc): Greg Ryden

Greg Ryden, AIA, established Ryden Architecture in 2013 as a full-service architecture firm for the design of commercial, institutional, educational and multi-family projects across the greater Houston area and beyond. Mr. Ryden has designed facilities for clients such as Houston Community College, the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Houston Independent School District, the City of Houston, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. He has also specialized in flood mitigation, security upgrades and facility hurricane preparedness with the City of Houston Fire & Police Departments.

Mr. Ryden has served on multiple boards and committees of professional and community based organizations such as AIA Houston. Other affiliations include the Urban Land Institute and the Association of Commercial Real Estate Professionals. He has also provided architectural assistance for the Avenue Community Development Corporation Building Committee, a non-profit organization that provides affordable housing for Houston's Near Northside residents. Most recently, he was nominated President of the Oaks Business Association, a business community within the Greater Oak Forest/Garden Oaks neighborhoods of Houston.

Mr. Ryden is a graduate of Texas A&M University, from which he received a Bachelor of Environmental Design and a Master of Architecture. He has been registered with the State of Texas to provide professional architecture services since 2009 (#21843).

Position 9: John Crowley

John D. Crowley, Jr. is a fourth-generation "sign guy" who has been exposed to the sign industry ever since he can remember. Mr. Crowley has served as General Manager of Crowley Signs & Graphics, Inc. for more than 20 years and Co-Owner of Leadfoot Signs for four years. Passionate for his trade, he is

constantly striving to better his ability and freely sharing his findings with whomever will listen in the industry.

Mr. Crowley was born and raised in Houston and is very much a family man. He is married with a 15-year-old daughter; sees his sister, niece and mother daily; and has worked shoulder to shoulder with his father for the past 20+ years.

Mr. Crowley graduated from Cypress Falls High School in 1996 and attended University of Houston Downtown to pursue a career in Child Psychology, but he quickly found himself in the family business following the footsteps of his great grandfather, grandfather and father. His current hobbies include golf, playing sports with his daughter, and spending time with his family.

Position 10: Nick Nicoletti

Nick Nicoletti has experience in all areas of the electrical business, including industrial, commercial and residential. He is currently employed by Facility Solutions Group Inc. (FSGI) as an estimator/project manager, where he is a source of expertise to many of his co-workers. A certified master electrician for more than 30 years (HMEL #514), Mr. Nicoletti has handled many design/build projects and is fluent in the code. He is an active member of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors and the Construction Industry Council, and he has also served as an instructor and board member of the Texas Electrical Safety Association since 2005.

In the community, Mr. Nicoletti is a lifetime member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and has volunteered in the educational Adventure area, sharing how livestock and raising animals are a part of Texas heritage. Mr. Nicoletti received an associate's degree in mathematics and computer science from Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, New York.

Position 11: Andy Teas



Andy Teas represents HPC customers in the management or operation of commercial industrial properties or facilities. Mr. Teas is Vice President of public affairs for the Houston Apartment Association, a non-profit trade association representing the owners and managers of over 500,000 apartment units in the Houston area. He also represents HAA on the Houston Construction Industry Council, which reviews and recommends local amendments to Houston's Building, Mechanical, Electrical, Energy, Plumbing and Fire Codes.

Mr. Teas has a passion for government and public service. He has worked in both legislative houses in Texas, and worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington. In addition he has been teaching government at Houston Community College since 1994.

Mr. Teas received his Master's degree in Public Affairs from the L.B.J. School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.

Position 12: Joyce D. Owens



Joyce Owens represents HPC customers in the business of permit services or consulting. Ms. Owens is founder and president of Owens Management Systems LLC, a Houston-based consulting firm founded in 2004 to provide pre-development services for residential and commercial builders and developers in Southeast Texas.

Ms. Owens has a zeal for community development. Since 1988 she has worked with public and private stakeholders to develop neighborhoods and communities, including master-planned communities, single-family residential development, and commercial and mixed-use economic development in urban and suburban settings. She also worked with stakeholders to eliminate urban blight in Houston and Harris County. From 2008-2009, Ms. Owens served as a Harris County Precinct Chairperson and an Election Judge. Her efforts continue to date as she volunteers in an advisory capacity for several faith based and non-profit organizations.

As executive director of Trinity Bethel, a non-profit faith-based community development corporation, Ms. Owens mobilized community stakeholders to organize and implement the Golfcrest/ Bellfort/ Reveille Super Neighborhood Council to assist the City of Houston with area development.

Ms. Owens holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism with emphasis in Public Relations from the University of Kansas.

Position 13: Hal Caton



Hal Caton represents HPC customers in the business of customer service. Mr. Caton has almost 40 years of experience as an executive in the construction and development industry with particular interest in finding creative solutions to code, construction and development problems. He spent 20 years in municipal service as a Building Official in Spokane, Washington; Plano, Texas; and Houston. Mr. Caton went into private practice as a building code consultant, founding Caton Consulting, Inc. in 1994. He has since worked on thousands of construction projects in the City of Houston and Harris County.

Mr. Caton actively represents his industry. He currently chairs the Harris County Fire Code Advisory Committee; he also represents the American Institute of Architects on the Houston Construction Industry Council (CIC) and is chairman of CIC's Building Code Committee.

Mr. Caton graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from Washington State University. He is also a Registered Architect in the states of Washington (#3398) and Texas (#18489), and is a Certified Building Official, designated by the International Code Council (#0114080-CB).