

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSTON AND HARRIS COUNTY OFFICIALS JOIN RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO PROVIDE FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO INMATE FAMILIES

**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020 at 1:00pm
1024 Pinemont Houston, TX 77091**

Houston, Texas... The inmate population in Houston/Harris County has grown to near 8,000. Despite early releases due to overcrowding and COVID-19, the number continues to grow. Many inmates are simply awaiting trial. During this time, families of the incarcerated face tremendous hardship. The children of inmates endure the loss of a parent, loss of income, and in some cases, face homelessness. For those reasons, Bishop James Dixon and Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez along with local religious leaders created the **Inmate Family Support Project**.

The project will provide food and supplies to inmate families in need. Its first initiative is a 2-day Community Impact Food Drive which began yesterday and continues today Saturday, May 2, 9:00am-2:00pm, at The Church The Community of Faith Church located at 1024 Pinemont, Houston 77091. Ministers will deliver collected food and other household supplies to families across Houston and Harris County. Families will also receive counseling, mentoring, and other support services. Bishop Dixon calls it, "Compassion In Action". Participating ministers include Bishop Sheldon Bady, Bishop Johnny Bates, Dr. Sam Gilbert, II, Pastor E.A. Deckard, Pastor Billy Williams, Pastor Jamail Johnson, Pastor Trevy Washington, Dr. Kenneth Campbell, Pastor T. Leon Prestor, Pastor Carl Davis and Pastor Isaac Matthews.

Houston and all Harris County residents are asked to donate non-perishable foods, household supplies and bottled water. Drive-thru and drop off donations are welcome. Many citizens have already pledged their support, including Mr. Percy Cruzot of Frenchy's Restaurant. Mr. Cruzot is donating more than one thousand meals to the project. Bishop Dixon and Sheriff Gonzalez will personally deliver food and supplies immediately after the food drive.

The Inmate Family Support Project invites all of Houston and Harris County to support this much-needed event. Local and national officials have joined in to support. Mayor Sylvester Turner, U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Senator John Whitmire, Senator Boris Miles, Representative Harold Dutton, and Representative Jarvis Johnson support the project and plan to attend.

We invite the press to join us at 1:00pm for interviews with Bishop James Dixon, Sheriff Gonzalez and other elected officials. Feel free to contact us for any specific inquiries. Contact: Mickey Mouton at 832-767-9419 or email: mickey_mouton@icloud.com.