

DR. THERESA DANIEL DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016: CLEAN AIR • GILL HERNANDEZ MEDICAL CENTER • FLU



CLEAN AIR MATTERS

A second resolution asking for the Environmental Protection Agency to reject the Texas State Improvement plan, which has been shown to not meet the updated federal air quality standards, was approved by the Commissioners Court on May 3rd, 2016. The resolution is intended to keep pressure on the TCEQ to do the right thing and to make sure we get the

measures needed to clean up the air in the DFW area. Late last year, I introduced a unanimously passed resolution asking Energy Future Holdings bankruptcy negotiators to clean up or retire aging coal plants to protect our citizens' health. Our youth and elderly are especially at risk. Today, the prevalence of asthma among young people is already higher in our region than the statewide average. Our region's poor air quality is currently designated as "serious" by the EPA and may be bumped to "severe" status. These air problems can lead to loss of federal dollars for transportation and other projects linked to air quality.

Results from a University of North Texas study show that old coal plants to the south and the east of the metroplex contribute significantly to poor air quality. Retrofitting or closing these plants would reduce pollution enough for the Dallas area to meet ozone standards. The Dallas County Commissioners are hopeful that other counties affected by the coal plants will pass their own resolutions. It's a matter of public health and high costs incurred by the healthcare system handling air-related ailments.

Dr. Robert Haley of UT Southwestern Medical Center estimates that control of nitrogen pollution from the three legacy EFH coal-fired power plants would prevent 160 hospital admissions, 350 emergency room visits, 149,000 restricted activity days for adults, 120,000 school absences, and 77 premature deaths, with an annual economic impact of \$513 million. Air quality affects us all, and that's why I fight for clean air.

DR. DANIEL SUPPORTS THE NAMING OF GILL HERNANDEZ MEDICAL FACILITY

Dr. Daniel was honored to support a resolution naming the Dallas County Jail Medical Facility after two Dallas pioneers in the fields of

WELCOME!

I'm so pleased to share my first newsletter with you and your family. I look forward to discussing some of my efforts on your behalf. I hope you'll feel free to contact me if there are issues you'd like me to address. As always, I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to serve you and look forward to continuing to work alongside you to make District 1 a better place to live, work, and play.

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HELPFUL NUMBERS & RESOURCES

GILL-HERNANDEZ CONT.

law enforcement and medicine. In 1954 segregated Dallas, Jesse Everett Gill served as the county's first African American Sheriff Deputy and later went on to teach in DISD schools until his retirement in 2000. Similarly, Dr. Onésimo Hernández paved the way for other Latinos as the first Mexican-American student at Southwestern Medical School in the late 40's and later, the first Mexican-American physician at St. Paul Hospital. Dr. Hernández passed away in the mid-nineties, and Gill died earlier this year. Loved ones of the two community leaders attended the March 1st Commissioners Court session and accepted the resolution on their behalf.

Dallas County houses around 75,000 inmates each year, and over half of that population suffers from chronic or acute disorders that require medical attention. The \$50 million facility employs over 300 health care professionals and has already saved tax payers a half of a million dollars in costs it would have otherwise incurred transporting prisoners to the hospital for care. As co-chair, with Commissioner Price, of the Behavioral Health Leadership Team, Dr. Daniel is thrilled that the new hospital features state of the art mental health care clinics to ensure inmates get the treatment they need. Parkland has been awarded the Texas Hospital Association's 2013 Excellence in Community Service Award for their work with the jail, and the new facility has attracted attention from jail administrators around the country interested in following Dallas County's example.

INFLUENZA VACCINES

I was saddened to hear Dallas County lost its first child this year to influenza in March. I wanted to talk with you about the importance of getting vaccinated to protect yourself and your family from the flu. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) encourages everyone aged 6 months and over to get vaccinated. Flu immunizations work by causing your body to produce antibodies for certain influenza strains and take about two weeks to protect you from the virus. Elderly populations are at the greatest risk with 80-90% of deaths from the flu occurring in people aged 65 and older. I hope you'll talk to your family physician or a county health care professional about whether you're a good candidate for this important health resource. The flu vaccine is available for children at all clinics and for adults at the main clinic located at 2377 N. Stemmons Frwy. in Dallas. Please click [here](#) for more information about all of our Dallas County clinic hours and locations.