

State of Texas

★ HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ★

Summer 2020 Legislative Update

Dear Resident of District 109,

As your State Representative, I wanted to share important information about the resources our office can provide for you, your family, and all of our neighbors in District 109. To preface, we need to first begin by addressing and discussing the current crises that have impacted all of us in different ways and the redefined new normal that has ensued as a result.

George Floyd represents one of too many unarmed Black men in our country who suffer and sometimes die at the hands of those who corrupt police culture — tainting the noble work of the many honorable peace officers. This is not black vs. white, this is racist vs. right. This is not police vs. the people, this is good vs. evil. The wrongdoer and the silent bystander will inevitably and equally share the same fate

We should remember Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Atatiana Jefferson, Jordan Edwards, Tamir Rice, Botham Jean, those we know, and those that have been forgotten. Systemic racism has been engraved in our nation's foundation, and it is my hope that we will eulogize it as a part of our future. Let America be transformed into a nation driven by a moral conscious to protect ALL and seek justice for ALL.

The issues in our criminal justice and prison systems were further unearthed during the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last session, I fought for body cameras for correctional officers as well as air conditioning in all state prisons. This will bring positive ramifications for those incarcerated as well as state employees in the TDCJ system. State employees deserve both recognition and support as they have always been essential on the frontline, especially during this crisis.

When the next legislative session begins in January 2021, how the state of Texas responds to these matters, as well as other pressing issues, will give insight into the future of our state. The current pandemic has exposed critical gaps in our state's infrastructure and as your State Representative, please know that education, criminal justice reform, and economic stability will continue to be my top priorities.

Each of the above has been and will continue to be affected by COVID-19. In the realm of education, foundational deficits were revealed. Teachers took on the challenge of overhauling their classrooms—parents and guardians saw first hand how difficult the job is! Teachers hold our future in their hands everyday and recognition in the form of fair pay is long overdue. It is imperative to point out that many children in K-12 did not have access to internet services, and those in higher education were further overwhelmed by their student debt obligations. Let us refocus our attention to aspects that actually deal with education, which do not include division about hairstyles. As such, I look forward to pursuing issues that directly impact our daily lives.

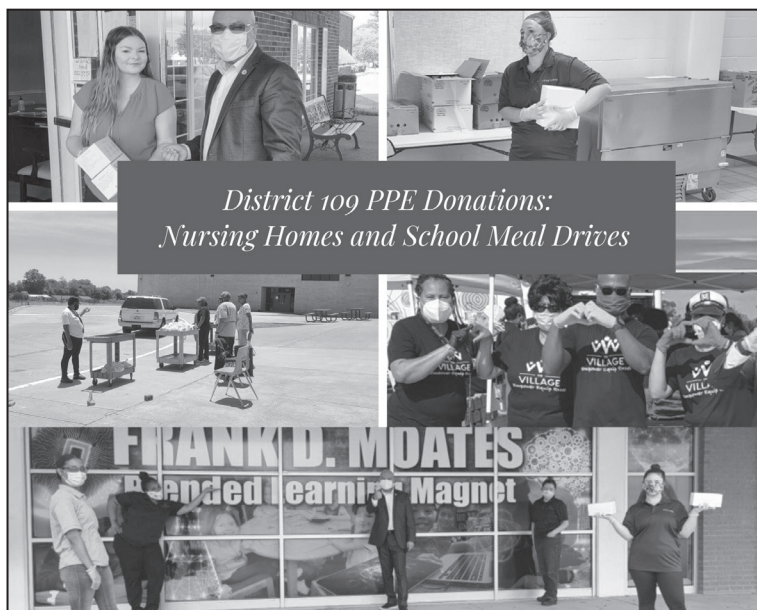
Lastly, I want to address another matter which was magnified during this crisis: economic stability. All Texans should have access to livable wages and quality jobs. While many were furloughed or laid off due to COVID-19, the fact that households were not able to be sustained goes to show that this needs addressing. We deemed the grocery store worker, the bus driver, and many similar employees as essential and yet, they receive some of the lowest wages seen in the American economic infrastructure! We fight for you and say: You were essential then, and you are essential now.

In closing, these are all areas I will continue to focus on in the months ahead, as we prepare for the Legislature to return next year. Please reach out if my office can be of assistance! Thank you for all that you do to make District 109 the outstanding community that it is.



★ 2020 HOPESUMMIT ★

The Hope Summit hosted in conjunction with Cedar Valley Community College, truly challenged many in District 109 and the entire state in the subject of Criminal Justice and Prison Reform. Convened were agents of change, including judges, non-profit CEOs and elected officials unafraid to take the bull by the horns and dive right in. This summit brought about ways to change a visibly lacking system. Reform within our prisons and criminal justice system have always been of special importance while serving in this capacity. Additionally, amid this pandemic it would be of great disservice to stay silent while COVID-19 remains prevalent and rampant throughout these facilities. The fight for rightful treatment of residents within TDCJ will continue, as will the fight against this dreadful disease.





State Representative ★ District 109

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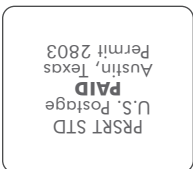
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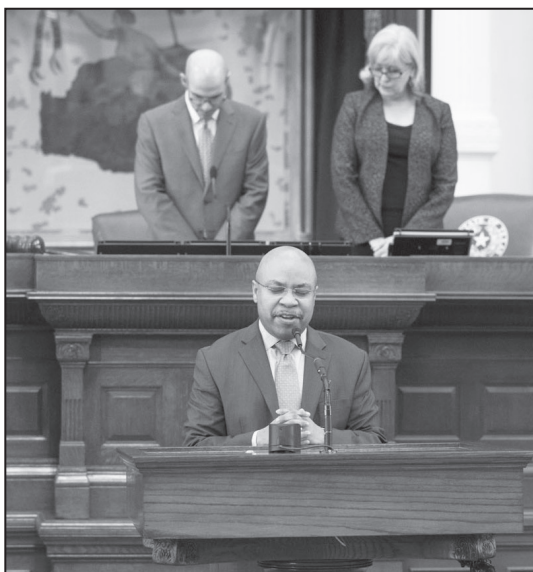
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CARL SHERMAN
State Representative



★ HELPFUL NUMBERS ★

Adult Protective Services:	800.252.5400
Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS):	800.720.7777
Medicaid:	800.252.8263
Medicare:	800.633.4227
Senior Care/VNA Texas	800.225.5862
Social Security Information:	800.772.1213
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS).....	800.458.9858
Texas Department of Insurance:	800.252.3439
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles:	888.368.4689
Texas Workforce Commission:	800.558.8321
Veterans' Information:	800.827.1000
Misc. Assistance (food, housing, etc.):	211



Opening the second day of session with a prayer.