**Notable Observations**

**Organizing:**

- Find other likeminded individuals and come together to organize.
- Sometimes when you want to get something done you have to work with a multitude of people, and organizations, to accomplish it.
- Make friends with reporters to get your story out.
- Make a policy to make the solution stick. Be sure to follow up with that policy to make sure that it is being enforced.
- If you are persistent you can get things accomplished. Very few tactics are accomplished quickly or easily.
- Reach out to your council members. Tell them about what is important to you. Get to know them.
- Connect what you are seeing on the ground to policy making.
- Network and ask about issues that someone is facing. Learning what other people care about is a strong way to connect. Either now or in the future you may be allies on an issue.
- Be compassionate and practice empathy.
- Find creative ways to deal with resource issues. Are there others who also care about the issues you do? How can you work together to maximize the resources you each have (time, volunteers, money, relationships...)
- Download and use the following helpful Applications
  - Houston 311
  - I Watch Harris County
- Important things to remember regarding speaking at City Council Meetings.
  - If you speak in the beginning you get to speak to the most council members, but you get one minute.
  - If you speak in the middle you get two minutes, but remember not all members may be present.
  - If you speak at the end you get three minutes to speak, but there is a great chance that your audience has significantly dwindled by this point.
  - It is important to be tactical.
  - To manage time effectively, have multiple community representatives speak about different aspects of the issue to express the full story.