



BORRIS L. MILES
STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development and Nominations

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Senator Borris L. Miles Works to Include Sunnyside in Zika Abatement Debris Removal Service

Senator Borris Miles worked with Mayor Sylvester Turner to include Sunnyside in the program to clean illegal dumpsites through the Zika Abatement Debris Removal Service.

"Last week, the City of Houston awarded a contract to NOLA Construction & Development Group, LLC to clean illegal dumpsites in Acres Home, Gulfton, Second Ward, Near Northside and Third Ward," said Senator Miles. "After being made aware of this program, I noticed Sunnyside was omitted from the list. I personally called the mayor to discuss the importance of including this historic African American community, which has one of the highest numbers of illegal dumpsites in the city. I want to thank Mayor Turner for listening to reason and agreeing to include Sunnyside in this program."

According to the City of Houston, the Solid Waste Management Department will partner with the Houston Health Department to clean up illegal dumpsites to avoid the growth of rats, insects and other vermin which may pose a health risk to our communities.

"Illegal dumpsites are breeding grounds for mosquitos, which can transmit dangerous viruses, like Zika. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, Zika can cause fever, rash, muscle and joint aches and red eyes. Cleaning these dumpsites will not only remove these blights from our neighborhoods, it will protect the residents from Zika," said Senator Miles.

Senator Miles has been an ardent fighter against illegal dumping in minority communities. During the 84th Texas Legislative Session, then-Representative Miles passed legislation dedicated to deterring illegal dumping and increasing the maximum penalty against illegal dumpers to \$4,000.

"Illegal dumping has plagued neighborhoods like Sunnyside for decades. The City of Houston spends more than \$5 million to clean illegal dumpsites. More is needed to protect our communities from these dumpsites and keep our neighborhoods livable, safe and protect the families from diseases that these dumpsites bring," said Senator Miles.

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