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Press Release

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Greater Houston Partnership Reiterates Support for Houston Equal Rights Ordinance

HOUSTON, TX – The Greater Houston Partnership announced today that the organization remains committed to the City of Houston’s Equal Rights Ordinance as approved by the Houston City Council in May 2014. The Texas Supreme Court ruled earlier this month that the Council must either offer a referendum of repeal for a public vote or rescind the ordinance altogether.

As the leading business organization in Houston, the Partnership emphasized the importance of ordinance to the overall business climate in the region. “As we said before, when the ordinance was first discussed, Houston is a remarkably welcoming place,” said Bob Harvey, the Partnership’s President and CEO. “As we work to attract businesses and talented professionals to our region, they have made clear that they are seeking a community that is welcoming, diverse and inclusive. Ensuring such an environment is critically important to the continued success of the region’s economy.”

The Partnership represents businesses both large and small, and many have long-standing business practices and policies in place that are consistent with the ordinance.

“We believe all Houstonians should be able to find a job, enjoy an evening out, and find a place to live without facing discrimination,” Harvey said. “These are basic rights that we should all enjoy in a welcoming community, and they are good for business. We believe that the majority of the citizens of Houston recognize these basic rights and will vote against repeal of the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance in November.”

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The Greater Houston Partnership works to make Houston one of the world’s best places to live, work and build a business. It represents 11 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller. With more than 1,400 member organizations, the Partnership represents approximately one-fifth of the region’s work force. Visit the Partnership at houston.org