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June 5, 2020

City of Houston building permits totaled $6.9 billion for the 12 months ending April ’20, down 1.4 percent from $7.0 billion for the same period in ’19, according to the latest data released by the city’s Public Works Department. Commercial permits rose 0.3 percent to $4.1 billion and residential permits dropped 3.8 percent to $2.8 billion.

City building permits totaled $464.7 million in April ’20, down 55.3 percent from $1,039.1 million in April ’19. Commercial permit values totaled $264.2 million, down 63.6 percent from 726.0 million in ‘19. Residential permits were $200.4 million, a decrease of 36.0 percent from $313.1 million in ’19. These decreases are no surprise given the underlying uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Projects of note that were permitted in April:

- Union Pacific ($11.8 million permit value) obtained a building permit to complete site work on its rail yard located at 6800 Kirkpatrick Boulevard.
- Amazon ($11.2 million permit value) was issued a building permit to build a 443,520 square feet high-piled warehouse at 16225 Tomball Parkway.

Prepared by Greater Houston Partnership Research Division