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Politics

CS redefines city ordinance

By COURTNEY STELZEL
THE BATTALION

The city of College Station is undergoing an upheaval of zoning and driveway ordinances, subdivision regulations and portions of drainage ordinances under the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). This document is more than 300-pages and was written by the city, outlining the regulations and requirements concerning the city's ordinances.

The revisions are being made through the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission and Development Services. Known as the Unified Development Code Project, a group of consultants are writing most of the new processes, but city staff also are working to ensure that their work is what the city is looking for, said Sabine Kuenzel, senior planner for College Station.

The project is designed to streamline the

ordinance process and give the city a chance to find any overlaps or inconsistencies amongst the ordinances, Kuenzel said.

Kuenzel said that there are two goals for the committees currently reviewing the UDO.

"One, we want to streamline development requirements, making it more user-friendly," Kuenzel said.

Kuenzel said their goal is to address a list of issues the College Station City Council and P&Z Committee came up with to this point.

She said the project allows the city to address new trends that other cities are dealing with.

"For instance, open space ordinances that we currently don't have can be addressed by the city council," Kuenzel said.

The new document will incorporate much of what the P&Z Commission currently does, as well as define new require-

Houston faces mayoral runoff

Brown v. Sanchez, the decision will be made Dec. 1

HOUSTON (AP) — A day after voters decided Houston's first black mayor should be in a runoff election with a councilman who could become the city's first Hispanic mayor, both men stressed their differences.

"There is a clear difference between the two of us in what we believe," said two-term incumbent Lee Brown Wednesday, pointing to his support for affirmative action, after-school programs and construction of new sports arenas.

Cuban-born challenger Orlando Sanchez said he too believes in the goals of affirmative action but takes a different approach to achieving them. As far as after-school programs, Sanchez said he supports them when they work. But he said Brown has mismanaged the city and voters should give him the chance to repair it.

"I think our issues were the right issues," Sanchez said. "Our campaign did nothing but take off like an airplane. We've got great momentum."

"What people want is someone who will roll up their sleeves, eliminate the waste and talk straight to the people," Sanchez said. "Of all the citizens who voted, almost 60 percent voted against the incumbent and for change. We are going to get our fiscal house in order, get our traffic moving again and take pride in our city again."

Brown collected 125,187

votes, or 44 percent, in Tuesday's election, edging Sanchez, with 115,965, or 40 percent. Another councilman, Chris Bell, had 45,737, or 16 percent. Three other unfunded candidates shared less than 1 percent of the votes.

Since neither Brown nor Sanchez received 50 percent of the vote, the political opposites will face each other in a runoff Dec. 1.

Brown, 64, campaigned last year for Al Gore, the Democratic presidential candidate. Sanchez, 43, is a conservative Republican.

Bell, a Democrat, said he would meet with both and then make an endorsement based on the issues.

"It could be quite a slugfest and I suspect it will be," Bell said of the runoff campaign.

Political analysts say the runoff will be based on partisan politics in what is officially a nonpartisan race.

"Brown is going to try and paint Orlando Sanchez as much farther to the right than most of the voters in Houston to make sure none of the moderate Democratic vote goes to Sanchez," said Kent Tedin, chairman of the University of Houston political science department.

"Even though this is a nonpartisan race, a lot of it has been driven by partisan politics and some identity with race," he said. "There hasn't been any overriding issue."

Tatcho Mindiola, the director of the University of Houston's Center for Mexican-American Studies, said Sanchez's story of leaving Cuba with his family after the Castro takeover and of finding success in America is playing well among Houston Hispanics.

"If it looks as if he is attacking Orlando, it will look like a black candidate attacking a Hispanic, and I see that as being counter-productive."

— Kent Tedin
UH political science department chairman

"Hispanics want a piece of the action. They are the new kid on the block and that apparently is more important to them than the issues," Mindiola said. "For Mexican-American voters it's the opportunity to vote for a cousin."

But Tyrone Tillery, an associate professor of history and race relations at the school, said he does not agree that Mexican-Americans, who make up the majority of Houston's Hispanic

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