HCAD Unveils Appraiser Field Location Map

*Locator map increases property owner security*

Houston — Residential property owners in Harris County now have access to a new tool to see if appraisers are working in their area as the appraisal district conducts on-site inspections during the 2021 property valuation process.

The “Appraiser Field Operations Map” identifies neighborhoods throughout the county where appraisers are scheduled to work. Users can either use the zoom feature to isolate areas of interest or use the search feature to enter a specific address.

“The map brings a new level of safety and peace of mind to property owners and our appraisers,” said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. “With more people working from home and a higher awareness of strangers in the neighborhood, the map lets homeowners check if the person coming up to the house is likely working for the district.”

The online map is updated once a day and can be found at hcad.org under Maps > Field Operations Map. The map will provide the general neighborhoods where appraisers are scheduled to work that day but will not identify their exact locations or specific accounts to be inspected.

HCAD appraisers are in hundreds of neighborhoods daily verifying property characteristics, changes in the neighborhood condition and other data. This information is used in the appraisal of property as of January 1 of each year.

The appraisal district has been notifying property owner of the annual property reinspection through its website and social media channels since late September.

(more)
Property owners should be aware of the following information for their security and the safety of HCAD appraisers.

- Appraisers will never ask to enter the house or for the property owner to accompany them to the backyard.
- Appraisers will knock on the front door to alert the resident they are on the property, identify themselves as an HCAD appraiser, and ask permission to measure the home and any other structures on the property. If access is denied, the appraiser will leave the property and estimate the size and characteristics from the street. If the property owner is not home, the appraiser will measure the sections of the structures that are accessible without entering a gate.
- Appraisers may appear at property owners’ doors as early as 7:45 a.m., but not later than 5:15 p.m.
- Appraisers wear a blue jacket or vest with the HCAD emblem on the front and HCAD Appraiser on the back and carry an identification badge with their picture, name, and unique appraiser number.
- Appraisers work from their own personal vehicle that has a magnetic sign attached identifying the appraiser as a Harris County Appraisal District employee.

Appraisers are required to enter changes in property characteristics directly into a field device before leaving the property, and most do so while sitting in their vehicle. Their personal vehicle is essentially their mobile office.

In addition to the map, property owners can contact the HCAD office at 713.812.5800 to verify an appraiser is working in their neighborhood.

More information about appraisal can be found at www.hcad.org under Appraisal > Residential Property > HCAD Residential Field Appraisal Facts.

About HCAD

The Harris County Appraisal District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas established in 1980 for the purpose of discovering and appraising property for ad valorem tax purposes for each taxing unit within the boundaries of the district. The district has approximately 1.8 million parcels of property to assess each year with a total market value of approximately $669 billion. The appraisal district in Harris County is the largest in Texas, serving approximately 500 taxing units, and one of the largest appraisal districts in the United States. For further information, visit www.hcad.org.

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