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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

THOMPSON ANNOUNCES RUN FOR SUGAR LAND MAYOR

SUGAR LAND, TX - James A. Thompson, former Sugar Land At-Large Council Member, Position 1, has announced his decision to seek election as mayor of Sugar Land in the May 10, 2008, election.

“I am in a position, both professionally and personally, to once again seek public office,”

Thompson said. “I believe my experience and record qualify me to serve in this office at this unique time in our city’s history.”

Thompson has served in many different public service roles – voluntary, appointed and elected – during his 30 years as a Sugar Land resident. He was the first resident-elected board member of Fort Bend Municipal Utility District #12, which was the first organized water and wastewater service provider for the initial development of First Colony. He then was appointed by the Fort Bend County Commissioner’s Court to Fort Bend Levee Improvement District #2, for which he served 15 years. During his tenure, the drainage system and outfall structures of the drainage district were built to their ultimate capacity; they still serve First Colony residents today.

Thompson served nine years on the Sugar Land City Council, from 1996 to 2005, both as a District and At-Large council member. During this time, the council reduced the city tax rate by more than 33 percent. Thompson was part of the leadership for many achievements, such as the acceleration of the upgrade and expansion of Highway 59; the improvements of Eldridge Road; the creation of Town Square; the development of the Sugar Land Regional Airport into a state-recognized premiere facility; numerous additions to the city park system, including Oyster Creek, Eldridge and Imperial parks; the acquisition of the land for the Brazos River Corridor; and the establishment of the University of Houston campus in Sugar Land.

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In 2005, Governor Rick Perry appointed Thompson to the Board of Regents for Stephen F. Austin State University, for which he currently serves as vice chair. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Memorial Hermann Sugar Land healthcare system.

“Sugar Land has a rich history and a solid foundation,” Thompson said. “Our future will have many challenges, but by working together, it can be every bit as exciting as the past. To meet these challenges, my vision is to maintain and improve to a high level of city services to our community of neighborhoods, for continued strong economic development and sustainability for both the corporate and retail segments, a systematic replacement of our aging infrastructure, citizen mobility and the pursuit of alternative transportation, continued quality development that will stand the test of time, a no-compromise attitude for public safety, the conversion to surface water by 2020, the continued increase of our senior citizen exemptions, and the successful voluntary annexations of our extra territorial jurisdictions when financially feasible.”

A native Texan, Thompson is a graduate of Bellaire High School in Houston and Stephen F. Austin State University. He is an Air Force veteran, having served his country for nine years. He and his wife, Gay, have been married for 37 years; they moved to Fort Bend County in 1978 to raise their three children: Michael, Tara and Meredith. Thompson is founder and president of TEAM Associates, Inc., a manufacturer’s representative sales agency servicing the industrial and contractors supply distributors in the markets of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Thompson will kick off his campaign with a fundraising event beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct.23, 2007, at Café Adobe, 2329 S. Highway 6 in Sugar Land. For additional information or to sign up as a volunteer, contribute or make comments, please visit the campaign website: www.thompsonforslmayor.com.

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