

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD police chief named to national task force to address student safety

Feb. 3, 2022 – The Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have partnered to launch a task force centered on identifying models for collaboration between local police and urban school districts to address the safety of students in urban areas throughout the United States.

Houston ISD Police Chief Pedro Lopez is among seven law enforcement leaders named to the IACP-CGCS Task Force.

“Student safety is paramount and takes a collective meeting of minds to improve outcomes for our children,” said HISD Police Chief Pedro Lopez. “It is an honor to be named to this task force and work alongside police chiefs and superintendents across the country focusing on families in urban areas.”

The IACP-CGCS Task Force is composed of school superintendents and police leaders working together to develop and share tools and resources. Over the next six months, the Task Force will meet monthly to discuss the challenges facing our students and our communities and identify approaches that will allow us to improve student safety in urban areas across the country. The collective goal is to produce a blueprint that will lead to safer communities for our urban students and their families and can be a model for other jurisdictions around the U.S.

“The leaders of America’s largest urban school districts look forward to joining forces with the nation’s law enforcement professionals in this one-of-a-kind partnership aimed at serving the students and families who live in our urban communities,” said Ray Hart, executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools. “There are so many areas where schools and police intersect, and we strongly believe that this unique and collaborative effort will start the necessary conversations that ultimately lead to real change and improved outcomes in the lives of the nation’s urban schoolchildren.”

“Community-based violence as it relates to schoolchildren is an alarming reality that no child should face,” said IACP President Dwight Henninger. “It is our hope that through this

partnership and task force that police leaders and school superintendents can work together to address student safety and improve the lives of children in our communities and school systems.”

The members of the IACP-CGCS Task Force are:

- Pedro Lopez, Chief of Police, Houston Independent School District
- Cerelyn (CJ) Davis, Chief of Police, Memphis Police Department
- Mitchell Davis, Chief of Police, Hazel Crest Police Department
- Joe Gothard, Superintendent, St. Paul Public Schools
- Todd Axtell, Chief of Police, St. Paul Police Department
- John Mina, Sheriff, Orange County Sheriff’s Office
- Rodolfo Perez, Adjutant to the Chief of Police, Los Angeles School Police Department
- Leslie Ramirez, Chief of Police, Los Angeles School Police Department
- Joris Ray, Superintendent, Shelby County Schools
- Maria Vazquez, Deputy Superintendent, Orange County Public Schools

About CGCS

The Council of the Great City Schools is the only national organization exclusively representing the needs of urban public schools. Composed of 77 large city school districts, its mission is to promote the cause of urban schools and to advocate for inner-city students through legislation, research and media relations. The organization also provides a network for school districts sharing common problems to exchange information, and to collectively address new challenges as they emerge in order to deliver the best possible education for urban youth.

About IACP

The International Association of Chiefs of Police is the world’s largest and most influential professional association for police leaders. With more than 31,000 members in over 165 countries, the IACP is a recognized leader in global policing, committed to advancing safer communities through thoughtful, progressive police leadership. Since 1893, the association has been serving communities worldwide by speaking out on behalf of law enforcement and advancing leadership and professionalism in policing worldwide.

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth-largest in the United States, with 276 schools and nearly 197,000 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

 4400 West 18th Street | Houston, Texas 77092-8501

 HoustonISD.org

 facebook.com/HoustonISD | facebook.com/HISDEspanol

 [@HoustonISD](https://twitter.com/HoustonISD) | [@HISDEspanol](https://twitter.com/HISDEspanol)

H O U S T O N I N D E P E N D E N T S C H O O L D I S T R I C T