



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

Samuel Peña
Fire Chief
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All Members,

My aim is to alleviate some of your concerns and correct misinformation relating to quarantine orders and benefit leave.

Mayor Turner's position is that any City of Houston employee who tests positive for COVID-19 will be presumed to have a work acquired COVID-19 illness.

Firefighters who are placed in quarantine for any COVID-19 action will be initially carried on workers' compensation. If the employee develops NO symptoms, DOES NOT meet the criteria for testing, and receives NO medical care while in quarantine, and the workers' comp claim is denied as a result, then the employee will be carried on a pay-code that will track the employee's absence from work but NOT reduce the HFD employee's benefit time (sick, vacation, holiday, etc).

My intent is that NO out-of-pocket costs be incurred and NO reduction in benefit time be experienced by HFD employees for any COVID-19 action the department takes in caring for the health and safety of our personnel while complying with CDC and Health Department guidelines.

Please remain diligent in reporting workers' comp claims to Tri Star for suspected COVID-19 illness or when ordered to quarantine by the Infection Control Office.

In closing, thank you for what you all do. Be safe, continue to wear your Personal Protective Equipment as directed to ensure you remain healthy and continue to keep each other safe.

With admiration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Samuel Peña".

Samuel Peña
Fire Chief