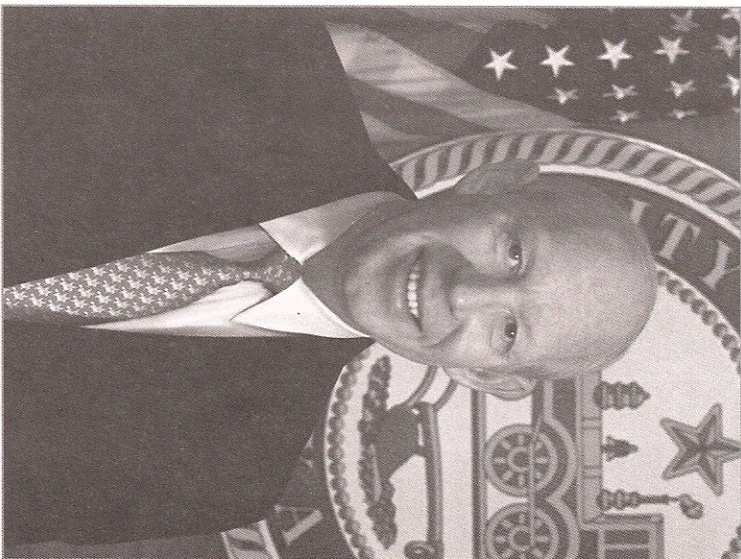


## Message From the Mayor



Mayor Bill White

Keep Houston Beautiful remains at the forefront of empowering communities to take the lead in making sustaining improvements to their environment. I am proud of the important work this organization does and the astonishing growth it is experiencing in demand for its expertise and assistance.

I take particular pride in the award winners each year. This year's winners show remarkable ingenuity. They also show outstanding leadership not just at the neighborhood or city level, but also on a national basis. Houstonians never fail to amaze me how they find new ways to make Houston a greener, less polluted city.

From SYSCO's investment in sustainability at its new LEED certified campus to the Small Steps Community Garden, each award winner has made a lasting contribution to the quality of life for their community. I am inspired by your dedication.

In the next five years, we plan to plant more than a million trees in Houston. They are needed to replace those lost during Hurricane Ike and also those needed to help clean the air. I know I can count on the hundreds of groups who routinely call upon Keep Houston Beautiful for tools or project advice to help us get these trees planted.

I congratulate each 2008 Proud Partner award winner. Your contributions to Houston demonstrate how many ways we can all help make our city a better place to live and work.

Mayor Bill White

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill White".

MAYOR'S PROUD PARTNERS LUNCHEON  
**24<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNUAL