



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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www.h-gac.com | @HouGalvAreaCog

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ONYINYE AKUJUO JOINS THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL AS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

HOUSTON – As the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) expands its programs and services to meet the needs of the rapidly-growing Houston-Galveston region, it is also expanding its leadership team. After a nationwide search, H-GAC has hired Onyinye Akujuo as its new chief operating officer.

Akujuo will oversee the operation of H-GAC’s transportation planning programs, public safety, community planning, and data analytics and research initiatives. She will also help to champion innovative solutions on critical regional issues through strategic leadership and collaboration. Akujuo began her new role on May 9.

“It is an honor to serve as the new chief operating officer. I am most looking forward to working closely with our leadership team, amazing staff, and our board members,” said Akujuo. “I am excited to help grow and transform the organization alongside our executive director, Chuck Wemple.”



For nearly 20 years, Akujuo has served in key leadership roles at organizations like the New York City Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. Her leadership expertise spans operations, compliance, grant development, transportation planning and management, new project funding and support, and community development.

She has led policy development, transit infrastructure development, systems reconstructions, multibillion-dollar emergency relief efforts, and served on metropolitan planning committees, where she helped oversee matters concerning unified planning work programs, transportation improvement, air quality conformity, and long-range regional transportation planning.

“What motivates me as a business leader is community and economic development, equity as it

About the Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit www.h-gac.com.



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relates to funding, and working closely with our political and city-based leaders to build partnerships and integral relationships that provide opportunities and resolve challenges for the citizens that need the resources the most,” said Akujuo. “By maintaining a culture of excellence, accountability, and innovation, H-GAC will continue to serve as a resource in the transformation of our region.”

Akujuo holds an MBA from the Cornell University Johnson School of Business, a master’s degree in corporate communications and integrated marketing from the New York Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Science from State University of New York at Old Westbury. She is an inaugural fellow of the New York University Transportation Emerging Fellowship. In 2018, Akujuo was placed on Mass Transit Magazine’s and on the Atlanta Young Government Leaders’ 40 under 40 lists. She was also named on the Fort Worth Inc. 400 Most Influential People list.

For more information about H-GAC’s programs, services, and events for local governments, partners, and residents, visit www.h-gac.com.

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