



CITY OF STAFFORD

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MAYOR
LEONARD SCARCELLA

COUNCILMEMBERS
WEN GUERRA
CECIL WILLIS, JR.
KEN MATHEW
VIRGINIA ROSAS
DON JONES
ALICE CHEN

CITY SECRETARY
TOMIKA R. LEWIS

STAFFORD LOSES AN ICON

Mayor Leonard Scarcella, the nation's longest, continuous serving Mayor died today, Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 2:58 p.m. after a brief illness. Mayor Scarcella served over 50 years as Mayor having first been elected in 1969. His leadership and vision for the City of Stafford has been the springboard to numerous and notable achievements. He led the battle to create and implement the Stafford Municipal School District, the only municipal school district in the state of Texas. In 1995, under his leadership and with the sound and disciplined fiscal approach he was known for throughout the country, the City eliminated the city Property Tax making Stafford the largest city in Texas to abolish city property taxes. As Mayor, he facilitated a partnership between the City of Stafford, the Texas Department of Transportation and Union Pacific Railroad for a \$110 million enhancement of the U.S. 90A Corridor. He led the charge for the development of the Stafford Centre, a unique entertainment and cultural complex with a 1,100 seat performing arts theatre, 25,000 square feet of convention center space and four festival fields on 43 acres of land. Mayor Scarcella sought and achieved the passage of innovative legislation to finance and construct a state-of-the-art, Science and Technology Center for Houston Community College in the City of Stafford as the first such authorized city/college educational facility in the state.

Mayor Scarcella was a life-long resident of Stafford. He attended grade school in Missouri City and graduated from Missouri City High School. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University and the University of Houston Law School having practiced law for 53 years in Stafford. He served in the Texas Air National Guard with active duty in the United States Air Force. Mayor Scarcella was a lifelong member of Holy Family Catholic Church – Missouri City, Texas.