



**Date:**  
**Contact:**

**March 23, 2015**  
**Joe Stinebaker**  
**Communications Director**  
**O) 713-755-4027**  
**C) 713-503-2610**  
[Joe.Stinebaker@cjo.hctx.net](mailto:Joe.Stinebaker@cjo.hctx.net)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **URBAN LAND INSTITUTE'S FINAL REPORT: "THE ASTRODOME CAN AND SHOULD LIVE ON"** *Panel of Nationwide Experts Recommends Converting Dome Into Multi-Use Park and Grand Civic Space*

A nationwide panel of land-use experts has released its final proposals on the Harris County Astrodome, recommending unanimously that the residents and leadership of Harris County should "create a bright future for the Astrodome by developing a grand civic space that communicates the can-do spirit of Texas, Harris County and Houston to the world."

The Urban Land Institute recommendations for conversion of the 50-year-old Dome into a unique, indoor multi-use park are similar to proposals unveiled last year by Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Houston and other local groups.

Judge Emmett said today that the ULI's recommendations are a blueprint for Harris County leaders and other stakeholders to follow as they move forward to ensure the Dome's future.

"The commissioners and I will review the report over the coming days," Emmett said. "I'm very grateful for the expertise and in-depth analysis offered by the ULI, and I look forward to working with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Houston Texans, the Offshore Technology Conference and others to help formulate a unified response to these recommendations," Emmett said. "It's gratifying to me to see that even a large group of experts from all across the nation recognized the Astrodome as the unique and beloved asset that it is."

Emmett said he expects Harris County Commissioners Court to formally receive the ULI recommendations at its next meeting March 31 and to forward them to the Harris County Sports & Convention Corporation to analyze and formulate an implementation plan.