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### **LGBTQ-AFFIRMING LAW HARRINGTON SENIOR LIVING CENTER IS OPEN**

*The Montrose Center has officially opened the Law Harrington Senior Living Center and the ribbon cutting ceremony is June 24, 2021.*

**HOUSTON, TX (May 1, 2021)** – Most of us know the line by heart. At the end of Wizard of Oz, Dorothy Gale gleefully exclaimed, “There’s no place like home!” Since the doors have opened at the Law Harrington Senior Living Center in Houston, the new residents have had a similar response. For instance, Deborah Bell, a 71-year-old resident who had been hopping between friends’ houses, said it was the first time she felt like she had a home to call her own since her partner died a decade ago.

Located at 2222 Cleburne Street within Houston’s historic Third Ward, the Law Harrington Senior Living Center features 112 one- and two-bedroom independent living apartments. Open to all low-income individuals and couples who are 62 years or older, this unique center offers residents affordable housing, health and wellness services, recreational programs, a dog park, and other amenities.

[The Montrose Center](#) broke ground on [the Law Harrington Senior Living Center](#) in 2019. It is now the largest LGBTQ-affirming, affordable senior living center in the nation and first in Texas. With architect [Terry Smith](#) at the helm of the project, the \$26.5 million facility was lease-up ready in early January 2021, with residents moving in shortly thereafter. The Montrose Center has been a longstanding pillar in Houston’s LGBTQ+ community and their efforts have now expanded with the building of the new senior center.

Research shows that LGBTQ seniors are twice as likely to age in social isolation and four times less likely to have the money needed for retirement, in comparison to their heterosexual peers. In response, the Montrose Center set out to build an affordable LGBTQ-affirming living center for seniors to age with dignity in a safe and accepting environment. The Law Harrington Senior Living Center welcomes all seniors of any sexual orientation or gender identity who do not discriminate against race, sexual orientation or gender identity, religious beliefs, color, sex, language, religion or disability.

In early September 2018, the Montrose Center received a letter of commitment for nine percent Low Income Housing Tax Credits worth an estimated \$13.8 million in funding. This sum is separate from the \$6.5 million community campaign, the \$5.1 million of TIRZ funds allocated by the City of Houston and administered by its Housing & Community Development Department, and the land donation valued at more than \$5 million from the Midtown Redevelopment Authority. The effort to obtain TIRZ funding began under former Mayor Annise Parker with the continued support of Mayor Sylvester Turner who championed the project when he took office in 2016.

The grand opening will be hosted on June 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in celebration of Pride month, with honored guests including Mayor Sylvester Turner, former Mayor Annise Parker and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

“It’s exciting to bring a new chapter of change and diversity to Third Ward, an area deep-rooted in Houston’s history,” said former Houston Mayor Annise Parker. “This is a great project and step forward for our community of which I am very proud.”

The Montrose Center is partnering with [Legacy Community Health](#) to provide residents of the Law Harrington Senior Living Center with primary medical care on-site, including services for seniors living with HIV.

“Gentrification and a lack of affordable housing has disenfranchised seniors from both Montrose and Third Ward for many years,” Dr. Ann Robison, Executive Director of the Montrose Center explained. “The new Center will bring seniors that have been forced out of these historic communities back inside the loop closer to their friends and family, while also providing them with critical support services.” Seeking to honor Third Ward’s rich and cultural history — a neighborhood where [emancipated enslaved people](#) once sought refuge and community — the Law Harrington Senior Living Center provides a safe haven for acceptance and the spirit of home. Often subjected to housing and economic discrimination in the past, Houston’s low-income seniors will finally find a beacon of hope. Click your heels, Houston, and mark your calendars for the official ribbon cutting on June 24, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. in front of the Law Harrington Senior Living Center, 2222 Cleburne Street.

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### **About the Montrose Center**

Established in 1978 as a safe and affirming place for lesbian and gay Houstonians to receive counseling, the Montrose Center has emerged as one of the nation’s leading full-service LGBTQ+ centers. Although counseling remains at the heart of what we do, services have expanded to meet the changing needs of our diverse community. These services include substance use recovery treatment, support and advocacy for LGBTQ+ survivors of violent crimes, care and assistance for people living with HIV, free community wellness programs and activities, and programs for our community’s most vulnerable and isolated—youth and seniors. We sit at the center of the LGBTQ+ community and serve as a gathering place for LGBTQ+ organizations and groups. The Montrose Center is a United Way Agency.

[www.montrosecenter.org](http://www.montrosecenter.org)

### **About Legacy Community Health**

Legacy Community Health (Legacy) is a full-service network of community medical clinics offering primary and specialty care to in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Services include adult primary care, pediatrics, dental care, vision services, behavioral health services, OB/GYN and maternity, vaccinations and immunizations, health promotion and community outreach, wellness and nutrition, and comprehensive HIV/AIDS care. With 35 locations across Houston, Baytown, Deer Park, and Beaumont, Legacy is the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Texas. Legacy has been a United Way-affiliated agency since 1990. [www.legacycommunityhealth.com](http://www.legacycommunityhealth.com)