



ANNISE D. PARKER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS

December 21, 2015

Mr. Shah Haleem
Chairperson
Bangladesh Association of Houston
13415 Renn Road
Houston, TX 77083

Dear Mr. Haleem:

Thank you for your term of service on my International Trade and Development Council for South Asia, which will expire on December 31, 2015. In reviewing the Council's year-end report and in discussions I have had with community leaders, I am aware of the exceptional vision and passion members of this group have brought to their service.

Houston's success story has been made possible by its international connections. In business, education, culture and the arts, Houston has grown and been transformed by these connections, perhaps more than any other major U.S. city. During my administration alone we have added 18 new international flights, hosted over 1,300 delegations from all corners of the world and taken over 13 outbound missions to 18 countries, reaching markets of more than 3 billion people. All the while, Houston itself has grown even more international with demographers estimating that over 25 percent of Houstonians are born abroad.

I recognize and celebrate the role of the MITDC in these signature achievements, and praise you for your dedication and contributions to the group's activities. While the decision as to whether to continue the MITDC belongs to the next Mayor, I anticipate that he will see the value that this group brings to the City of Houston and surrounding areas.

Wishing you a happy new year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annise D. Parker".

Annise D. Parker
Mayor