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# CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS

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## MAYOR'S LETTER OCTOBER 2012

Written by Mayor Russell Hamley

### CITIZENSHIP 101

Here's a quick quiz to determine how aware you are when it comes to knowing your elected officials.

*See how many of the following you can name:*

1. **The President of the United States** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **The Vice President of the United States** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **The two Senators representing Texas** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Your Congressman** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Your State Senator** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Your State Representative** \_\_\_\_\_
7. **The Harris County Judge** \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Your County Commissioner** \_\_\_\_\_
9. **Your five City Councilmen** \_\_\_\_\_
10. **Your Mayor** \_\_\_\_\_

Believe it or not, some people will not know the answer to the first question. I would venture to guess that most residents in Jersey Village will not answer all the questions correctly; I know I would not have been able to do it twenty years ago. I would guess that getting five or more correct answers would be better than average. Being an informed and educated voter is just the first step in having good government.

In our democratic process, the quality of government that we have is directly related to the quality of people we elect. After all, we are a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Our government – local, state and federal -- is only as good as the voters that choose to participate and be informed about the people they elect to govern them.

Knowing your elected officials is just the first part of being a good citizen. Being knowledgeable of your taxes and how they are being spent is also very important. There are many ways a good citizen can make Jersey Village a better place to live. You can start by taking care of your property so it is attractive and an asset to the city. Keeping a watchful eye on your neighbors and their property to make sure they are safe is another way. As a good citizen, when you see something suspicious, strangers or questionable actions by others, take the time to inform local authorities.

Jersey Village conducts annual police and fire academies to teach citizens how they do their jobs, as well as why they do what they do. When you take part in these courses, you will not become part of the police or fire department, but you will become much more informed about how these departments work. The people I have talked with that have graduated from these academies have told me how the courses have helped them in their daily lives and how much more aware they are of things going on around them. I encourage you to fill in any missing or incorrect answers on the quiz by educating yourself about your elected officials. Determine to be a good citizen by being aware of things going on in your neighborhood. We need a city of informed citizens.

*Answers:*

1. *Barack Obama*
2. *Joe Biden*
3. *Kay Bailey Hutchinson and John Cornyn*
4. *John Culberson*
5. *Dan Patrick*
6. *Gary Elkins*
7. *Ed Emmott*
8. *Jack Cagel*
9. *Jill Klein, Rod Erskine, Harry Beckwith III, Justin Ray, Sheri Sheppard*
10. *Russell Hamley*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Hamley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.