



Mayor Annise D. Parker



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 13, 2014**

**R&B DIVAS, ANGIE STONE AND CHANTÉ MOORE HEADLINE MAYOR'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND TREE LIGHTING PRESENTED BY RELIANT**

*Event set for Friday, December 5*

Ring in the season with the **95<sup>th</sup> Mayor's Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting Presented by Reliant** on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at Hermann Square outside City Hall taking place from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. This spectacular, FREE event is a holiday tradition of music, fireworks and family fun. A towering holiday tree, glowing with energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) lights, shimmering ornaments and a stunning star topper, will light up the streets of downtown Houston this holiday season.

**"R&B Divas" Angie Stone and Chanté Moore**, both Grammy nominated R&B vocalists and television stars, will enchant crowds at Houston's premier tree lighting celebration as this year's headline performers. Angie Stone has delivered four Top 10 albums and has sold over 1.4 million albums in the U.S. and more than 5 million worldwide. Many will recognize her from her hit singles, "Sometimes" and "Baby." Chanté Moore has released seven R&B albums and produced 20 charting singles and collaborations with Prince, R. Kelly, Boys II Men, and The Isley Brothers, just to name a few. Both artists star on the hit TV reality show, *R&B Divas*.

The holiday variety show will also include performances by the MET TOO Dance Company, Barbara Padilla, Planet Funk, and others. Santa will also be in attendance, in his North Pole-themed booth taking free photographs with kids.

"It's such a milestone for Houston to celebrate its 95<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's tree lighting event in front of City Hall," said Mayor Annise D. Parker. "Every year, we look forward to hosting this celebration; and there's no better way to kick-off the happiest time of year than with friends, family, lights, fireworks, and performances that will bring down the house."

Immediately following the performance, **Mayor Annise D. Parker** and **NRG Retail and Reliant President Elizabeth Killinger**, along with **Santa Claus**, will light the Official Holiday Tree and ignite a spectacular fireworks finale perfectly timed to the Hallelujah Chorus from "Handel's Messiah," featuring Music Director Ernest Walker, his award-winning band and a 100 voice combined choir from Cy-Fair High School, North Forest High School, and Westbury High School.

"This Houston tradition is a great way to get in the holiday spirit," said Elizabeth Killinger, president of NRG Retail and Reliant. "Every year we are dazzled by the LED lights that illuminate the magnificent tree outside City Hall. It is an honor and a pleasure to be part of bringing such a fabulous celebration to our community."

The public is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Salvation Army booth at the Mayor's Holiday Celebration to help make the holidays brighter for a child this season. Everyone who brings a toy will

receive a light-up Santa hat from Reliant. The annual toy drive benefits the Salvation Army Greater Houston Area Command.

Sponsors include: Reliant, an NRG company, Cigna, TDECU, Southwest Airlines; Silverleaf Resorts, Houston Downtown Management District; Houston Parks and Recreation Department; and the Houston Public Library Foundation. The celebration is produced by the Mayor's Office of Special Events.

Public parking is available in the Theater District. For more information, please visit [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov) or [www.houstonsevents.org](http://www.houstonsevents.org).

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