

## Johnson Development donates 16 acres to county for new tower site

By Catherine Dominguez, cdominguez@hcnonline.com Updated 10:17 am, Thursday, May 10, 2018

The Montgomery County commissioners accepted the donation of 16 acres from Johnson Development Tuesday as the location of a new radio tower. The land, valued at \$180,000, is located at Grand Central Park at Interstate 45 and Loop 336. According to Assistant County Attorney B. D. Griffin, the county will pay \$7,467.95 in closing costs. Those funds will come from the county's capital improvement fund.

According to Sheriff Rand Henderson, the \$2.2 million project has been in the works for some time. Henderson said the original tower was located near the Conroe Wastewater Treatment Plant. That tower, which had structural damage, was further damaged by Hurricane Harvey in August.

"We have been working on getting (the tower) moved," Henderson said, adding the new site needed to be close to the current site to avoid reconfiguration of the department's radio system.

The project is being funded through insurance proceeds. However, in February, the court approved \$126,104 from its capital improvement fund to cover a shortfall between the cost and the insurance settlement. Henderson said the new tower will help improve communications and provide redundancy for his department.

County Judge Craig Doyal was supportive of the project. "I think this is a good move," he said before thanking Johnson Development for its cooperation in the project and donating the land.

Johnson Development is developing the former Camp Strake into a master planned community that will include residential, multifamily, commercial and entertainment venues when built out.

"I want to point out that I don't think we would have gotten this done without (Doyal) working closely with Johnson Development to make that happen," Precinct 3 Commissioner James Noack said noting Henderson was key in the process as well. "This is something a long time in the process."