

## **Zafar "Zaf" Tahir, B.S.E.E., M.B.A., J.D.**



**Mr. Tahir serves as Commissioner for Houston Planning and Houston Airports.**

Mr. Tahir has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Cullen College ('84) and an MBA from Bauer ('99,) both at UH, and a J.D. from Thurgood Marshall (2013.) **He is licensed in State of Texas as an Attorney and a Professional Engineer (inactive.)**

**Tahir started out as an Automation and control systems engineer on the Houston Ship channel (1984)** working on automation of machine tools and Gantry robots. He worked as Robotics engineer for **Automaker of Houston** working on manufacturing automation. Moved to New York (1986) to work for **Ciba-Geigy of Basel Switzerland**, as the Lead Control systems engineer in US, gaining extensive international experience with projects and contractors.

He worked with **BL Technology (1989)** on control systems for **Houston's wastewater treatment plant**. He joined **Phillips Petroleum (1990)** and worked with **MW Kellogg and Honeywell** on the rebuild of Polypropylene and MTBE plants after the devastating industrial disaster. In 1992 Tahir joined **SABIC's European JV "Ibn Zahr" with Neste oy of Finland and Enichem of Italy**. He won Honeywell's Chairman award and presented a paper a Mideast conference (1994) on leading a re-design of Control systems project titled "Brain surgery." While at SABIC, he also trained with **Yokogawa in Singapore**.

**Tahir became a business owner in 1996**. He was in gasoline business with **Exxon, Phillips 66, Mobil, and Conoco-Phillips** from 1996-2012. Mr. Tahir also owned **Taji Controls & Instrumentation** from 1996-2009. Tahir served as **President of ISDI**, an international development & consultancy firm on various projects in South Asia and the Middle East (2004-9.) **Currently he has a consulting and Legal practice in Houston.**

**Mr. Tahir serves on the Board of UH Bauer College of Business. He is a founding Board Member of Islamic Arts Society and serves as the Chair of Islamic Society of Greater Houston's Government & Public Affairs.**

**He is married to Yasmeen who works for Northwestern Mutual Life. They have two boys - Emad works for PWC as an Accountant and Farhad works for Shell in procurement.**