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FILE PHOTO: A woman crosses a street in the Central business district in Hong Kong, China August 22, 2019. REUTERS/Thomas Peter/File



Inside C2

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Trump attacks impeachment witness on Twitter, Democrats see intimidation



Marie Yovanovitch, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, testifies before a House Intelligence Committee hearing as part of the impeachment inquiry into U.S. President Donald Trump on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., November 15, 2019. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump launched a Twitter attack on a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine on Friday while she was testifying to an impeachment hearing in Congress, in an extraordinary moment that Democrats said amounted to witness intimidation. Trump blasted Marie Yovanovitch, a career diplomat, as she explained to the second day of televised impeachment hearings how she had fought corruption in Ukraine and how the Trump administration abruptly removed her from her post earlier this year. Democrats say Yovanovitch was pulled back to Washington to clear the way for Trump allies to persuade Ukraine to launch corruption probes into Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who was on the board of a Ukrainian energy company. Trump's pressure on Ukraine is at the heart of the Democratic-led impeachment inquiry into whether the Republican president misused U.S. foreign policy to undermine one of his potential opponents in the 2020 election. Three takeaways from the Trump impeachment hearing on Friday: Trump's attack on former ambassador is witness intimidation; Schiff

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As Yovanovitch testified, Trump fired off criticism on Twitter in a move Democrats labeled "real-time" witness intimidation.

"Everywhere Marie Yovanovitch went turned bad. She started off in Somalia, how did that go?" Trump asked. In the most dramatic moment of the public impeachment hearings that began on Wednesday, Representative Adam Schiff, who is chairing the hearing in the House Intelligence Committee, asked Yovanovitch for her reaction to the tweet. She said it was "very intimidating." "I can't speak to what the president is trying to do, but I think the effect is to be intimidating," she said. Schiff replied: "Well, I want to let you know, ambassador, that some of us here take witness intimidation very, very seriously."

Afterward, Democratic Representative Eric Swalwell, a member of the committee, told reporters the Trump attack could be considered for a separate article of impeachment against Trump for obstruction of justice.

'MORE OBSTRUCTION'
"It's evidence of more obstruction: intimidating, tampering with the witness's testimony," he said.

At the White House, Trump told reporters he did not think his tweets were intimidating. Marie Yovanovitch, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, testifies before a House Intelligence Committee hearing as part of the impeachment inquiry into U.S. President Donald Trump on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S.,

November 15, 2019. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst
"I have the right to speak. I have freedom of speech just as other people do," Trump said.

Yovanovitch was removed from her post as ambassador to Kiev in May after coming under attack by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, at a time when he was working to persuade Ukraine to carry out two investigations that would benefit the president politically.

Giuliani also was trying to engineer a Ukrainian investigation into a debunked conspiracy theory embraced by some Trump allies that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

The main focus of the impeachment inquiry is a July 25 phone call in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who took office in May, to open the investigations. Democrats are looking into whether Trump abused his power by withholding \$391 million in U.S. security aid to Ukraine as leverage to pressure Kiev to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, who is a leading contender for the Democratic nomination to take on Trump in 2020. The money, approved by the U.S. Congress to help U.S. ally Ukraine combat Russia-backed separatists, was later provided to Ukraine.

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Ask about INDEPENDENCE PLUS

Hong Kong confirms economy fell into recession amid protests, trade war

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Hong Kong sank into recession for the first time in a decade in the third quarter, government data confirmed on Friday, weighed down by increasingly violent anti-government protests and the escalating U.S.-China trade war.

The economy shrank by 3.2% in July-September from the previous quarter on a seasonally adjusted basis, revised government data showed, in line with a preliminary reading. Gross domestic product (GDP) contracted for the second consecutive quarter, meeting the technical definition of a recession.

With no end to the protests in sight, analysts warn the financial and trading center potentially faces a longer and deeper slump than during the global financial crisis in 2008/2009 and the SARS epidemic in 2003.

From a year earlier, the economy contracted 2.9%, also in line with the preliminary reading. The readings were the weakest since the global crisis.

“Domestic demand worsened significantly in the third quarter, as the local social incidents took a heavy toll on consumption-related activities and subdued economic prospects weighed on consumption and investment sentiment,” the government said in a statement.

It revised down its forecast for full-year growth to a contraction of 1.3% versus an earlier estimate of 0-1% growth. That would mark the first annual decline since 2009.

“Ending violence and restoring calm are pivotal to the recovery of the economy. The government will continue to closely monitor the situation and introduce measures as necessary to support enterprises and safeguard,” the government said.

More than five months of political protests have plunged the city into its worst crisis since it reverted from British to Chinese rule in 1997.



FILE PHOTO: A woman crosses a street in the Central business district in Hong Kong, China August 22, 2019. REUTERS/Thomas Peter/File Photo

Tourists are cancelling bookings, retailers are reeling from a sharp drop in sales and the stock market is faltering, adding to pressure the city is feeling from China's economic slowdown and the prolonged Sino-U.S. trade dispute.

August retail sales were the worst on record - down 23% from a year earlier - while September's plunged 18.3%.

Parts of the city were paralyzed for a fifth day on Friday. Transportation disruptions have become common and some shopping malls and other businesses are shuttering early as the unrest escalates.

BUSINESS GATEWAY TO CHINA
Hong Kong is one of the world's most important financial hubs with total banking, fund and wealth management assets worth more than \$6 trillion.

Many businesses with ambitions to expand in China still consider it as a gateway into the mainland, while Chinese firms use it to access international capital, as well as a testing ground and springboard for their global ambitions.

Business activity in the private sector fell to its weakest in 21 years in October, according to IHS Markit, while demand from mainland China declined at the sharpest pace in the survey's history - which started in July 1998. The government has rolled out stimulus measures since August, but since it is forced to keep a high level of reserves to back the Hong Kong dollar peg to the U.S. dollar, the packages have been relatively small.

Analysts also doubt the effectiveness of handouts, since the uncertainty prevents businesses and consumers from spending and investing, and store closures will lead to job losses.

Chongqing Global Travel Agents Conference 2019 held with record scale, achievements and influence



industry “Go Global” faster and attract more foreign tourists, and boost international cultural tourism exchange and cooperation more extensively. Moreover, in addition to the favorable tourism policies launched last year, Chongqing offered 144-hour visa-free stay for foreigners and other policies this year to strongly motivate the enthusiasm of global travel agents.

“Chongqing International Travel Mart 2019” held simultaneously

Altogether 17 incoming tourism cooperation projects were signed at the event, involving more than ten overseas enterprises including Eco Home and Visit Murmansk of Russia, as well as famous Chinese companies such as JD Cloud (Chongqing) Technology and iFLYTEK's southwest headquarters. Seven of these projects were signed with Nan'an Culture & Tourism Committee, which will also cooperate with iFLYTEK's southwest headquarters in building the all-terrain culture and tourism AI big data application demonstration center and the all-terrain digital cultural and tourism service system.

It is learnt that the “Chongqing International Travel Mart 2019” was held at the same time, which consisted of seven sections. Eight international enterprises or organizations from Spain, Singapore and Austria, ten enterprises from Sichuan's Guang'an, Jiuzhaigou and Ganzi scenic zones, as well as 25 cultural and tourism companies from across the city, and 28 travel enterprises from other places participated in the mart. Altogether 82 participating companies set up 120 booths and nine promotion events were held during the mart.

The “Chongqing Global Travel Agents Conference 2019” promoted Chongqing's cultural and tourism resources and special routes in an intensive and professional manner with the help of field trips, while the “Chongqing International Travel Mart 2019” and one-on-one discussions will give a strong impetus to the city's incoming tourism market and spread its voice to the whole world.

On November 14, the “Chongqing Global Travel Agents Conference 2019” was co-hosted by Chongqing Culture and Tourism Development Committee (CCTDC) and Nan'an District People's Government in Nan'an District. In the theme of “Incoming Tourism”, the conference aimed to spread the message of “A Tour in Chongqing, A Gain in Vision”. About 400 Chinese and foreign travel agents and world-renowned industrial experts from nearly 30 countries and regions, including the UK, Italy, Japan, ROK and Kenya, attended the conference.

“A Tour in Chongqing, A Gain in Vision” - promote Chongqing Charm to the world

It is learnt that from November 10, the host has organized travel agents from all countries to inspect two selected tourist routes in Chongqing. During the four-day trip, the agents saw the city's tourist resources in natural, cultural, social and other aspects. Meanwhile, a grand meeting was held in Nan'an District that aired the “Chongqing Voice” to the nearly 400 agents by introducing the city's new image as “A Land of Natural Beauty, A City with Cultural Appeal”, focusing on the five aspects of the Three Gorges, Mountainous City, Local Culture, Hot Spring and Countryside. The meeting also launched cultural and tourism products with local characteristics, so that more people could enjoy and understand the local customs of Chongqing.

After forming ten overseas promotion centers last year, Chongqing set up seven new ones this year. By fully exerting their functions as platforms, the city is determined to help its tourism



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Editor's Choice



Demonstrators clash with security forces during a protest against Chile's government in Santiago



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Navy SEAL Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher prepares to answer a question from the media with wife Andrea Gallagher after being acquitted on most of the serious charges against him during his court-martial trial at Naval Base San Diego in San Diego, California, U.S., July 2, 2019. REUTERS/John Gastaldo/File Photo



A member of the security forces points his gun during a protest against Chile's government in Santiago



Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Yovanovitch testifies before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington



A demonstrator takes cover behind a makeshift shield during a protest against Chile's government in Santiago, Chile November 15, 2019. REUTERS/Pilar Olivares



Marie Yovanovitch, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, is sworn in to testify before a House Intelligence Committee hearing as part of the impeachment inquiry into U.S. President Donald Trump on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., November 15, 2019. Andrew



Soccer Football - Bayern Munich AGM elects successor for president Uli Hoeness - Olympiahalle, Munich, Germany - November 15, 2019 Newly elected Bayern Munich President Herbert Hainer with his predecessor Uli Hoeness during the conference REUTERS/Andreas Gebert

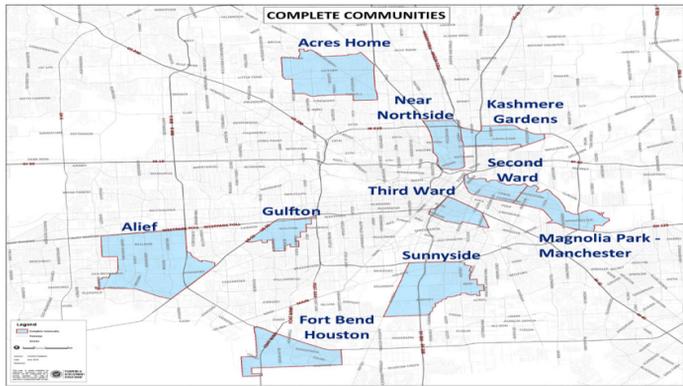


Demonstrators clash with security forces during a protest against Chile's government in Santiago

City Of Houston Mayor's Office Media Release For Immediate Release 6/20/19



Mayor Expands Complete Communities Initiative To Five More Neighborhoods

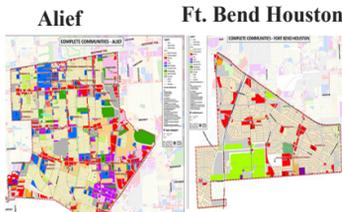


Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Houston - On Thursday, June 20, 2019, Mayor Turner announced that five new neighborhoods have been added to the Complete Communities initiative! These are Alief, Kashmere Gardens, Fort Bend Houston, Magnolia Park - Manchester, and Sunnyside.

They join a collaborative neighborhood improvement program that started with Acres Home, Gulfton, Near Northside, Second Ward and Third Ward. The City will work in a concentrated manner with stakeholders in each area and partners across Houston to create more complete neighborhoods with enhanced access to quality affordable homes, jobs, well-maintained parks and greenspace, improved streets and sidewalks, grocery stores and other retail, good schools and transit options. The work in these neighborhoods will help develop solutions that are transferable to other communities in

Houston creating One Complete City. Mayor Turner made today's announcement at a community celebration at Eastwood Park, 5000 Harrisburg Blvd. in Second Ward, to showcase examples of the initiative's progress.



Worn out tennis courts at the park were converted to soccer practice spaces thanks to a \$200,000 public-private partnership among the city, the U.S. Soccer Foundation and Target stores. New skate park ramps debuted at the park, thanks to the Friends of Eastwood Park non-profit

organization. "Although they have been underserved for decades, these 10 neighborhoods represent some of the best of Houston—they're diverse, hard-working, and proud," Mayor Turner said. "Complete Communities will ensure that all ships rise with the tide, so that all of our communities are part of the fabric that makes Houston one complete city."



Complete Communities, which the mayor started two years ago, uses government, non-profit and business funds and other resources to strengthen neighborhoods across the city. Donors have already given \$11 million to the mayor's Complete Communities Improvement Fund and the initiative has also attracted millions of dollars in private investments.

The 10 neighborhoods - half of them outside Loop 610 -- struggle with access to quality amenities and services, such as full-service supermarkets, affordable urgent care centers and high-quality early learning and after-school programs. Each has significant tracts of undeveloped land and at least two Opportunity Zones, designated by the federal government, in which investors can qualify for tax breaks.

Residents of each Complete Communities neighborhood determine the top priority neighborhood improvements through a series of public meetings and workshops.

Background Mayor Turner Announces Complete Communities Initiative

Mayor Sylvester Turner announced the launch of the much-anticipated Complete Communities Initiative on April 12, 2017. Complete Communities is a pilot program designed to revitalize Houston's under-resourced communities in

partnership with existing neighborhood residents.



The initiative will work toward creating sustainable, "complete" neighborhoods that are safe, affordable, economically viable, and that have access to quality education, affordable housing, transportation options, green spaces, healthy food options, economic opportunity, and well-maintained infrastructure.

In order to achieve sustainable, comprehensive community results that also safeguard against widespread gentrification, the City must embrace a nuanced approach, and work alongside community partners and neighborhoods to specifically identify what will make their respective neighborhoods "complete," and implement that vision.

The Complete Communities Initiative will commence with the following five (5) pilot communities: Acres Homes, Gulfton, Second Ward, Near Northside Third Ward.



The City will also collaborate with the Complete Community Advisory Committee, comprised of community building stakeholders across Houston, during this process. In order to both develop and implement these local community plans, the City will explore public-private partnerships and private investment in these projects, where appropriate, to help build local capacity and to promote sustainability. The goal of creating and

implementing these local community plans is to enable Houstonians in various places across Houston to have the opportunity to thrive where they are.

"With the Complete Communities Initiative, we are not simply imposing programs on under-resourced neighborhoods; rather, we are seeking to collaborate with these communities to create and implement a shared community vision that empowers that community for the long-term." Council Member Edwards stated. Edwards adds, "I commend Mayor Turner for including the Complete Communities Initiative among his top priorities, and look forward to working with Mayor Turner and my colleagues on City Council to help move all of Houston forward."

For more information on the Complete Communities Initiative, visit houstontx.gov/completecommunities.

Strategy



Complete Communities is about improving neighborhoods so that all of Houston's residents and business owners can have access to quality services and amenities. It's about working closely with the residents of communities that haven't reached their full potential, understanding their strengths and opportunities, and collaborating with partners across the city to strengthen them. While working to improve these communities, we must also work to ensure existing residents can stay in homes that remain affordable.

Timeline table with columns for dates (June 2019, July-August 2019, Fall 2019-Spring 2020, March-May 2020, Late Spring 2020) and corresponding activities like 'Mayor Turner announces new communities', 'Extensive outreach to civic leaders', 'Big public engagement meetings', 'Creation of Implementation Strategies', 'Implementation of Long-term Projects begins'.

Advertisement for Southern News Group (美南報業電視傳媒集團) featuring 'SOUTHERN CHINESE DAILY NEWS' (美南日報) and '15.3 KVVU-TV'. Includes a QR code and website information.

Advertisement for Ocean Palace Restaurant (珍寶海鮮城). Features the restaurant's name in English and Chinese, a photo of the building, and promotional text: '天天茶市 正宗粵菜 港式點心', '二樓大型豪華宴會廳', '大型舞台,可容納百餘席', '精心承辦婚禮/壽宴/社團等各類型宴會', '本海鮮酒樓常備各種生猛游水海鮮'. Includes address: 11215 Bellaire Blvd. and phone: 281-988-8898.

Although three U.S. presidents have faced impeachment, none have been removed from office.

The final section of Article II, which generally describes the executive branch, specifies that the "President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States" shall be removed from office if convicted in an impeachment trial of "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

This sparse history has given Congress relatively few opportunities to flesh out the bare bones of the constitutional text. The Impeachment Clause was included in the Constitution in order to create another check against abuses by government officials and to give Congress the ability to remove from power an unfit officer who might otherwise be doing damage to the public good.

The Senate early on decided that members of Congress should be expelled by their individual chambers rather than be subjected to an impeachment trial. Presidents have acted quickly to remove problematic members of the executive branch.



The graphic above explains the typical procedures for impeachment and removal from office.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

of impeachment inquiries.

U.S. CONSTITUTION: CONGRESS & IMPEACHMENT. "The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments... [but] no person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two-thirds of the Members present." "The House of Representatives 'shall have the sole Power of Impeachment' [make formal charges against]"

Much of the controversy surrounding the Impeachment Clause has revolved around the meaning of "high Crimes and Misdemeanors," a phrase that is unique to the impeachment context.

remedy for government officials who are simply bad at their jobs. It is a remedy for abuses of public office. But the line between general unfitness and abuse of office can be blurry.

The first Senate conviction in an impeachment trial was of a federal judge, John Pickering, who was charged with issuing rulings that were "contrary to his trust and duty as a judge" and "in violation of the laws of the United States," as well as appearing on the bench "in a state of total intoxication" in a manner "disgraceful to his own character as a judge and degrading to the honor of the United States."

office. The Senate was not anxious to say that Pickering had committed a crime, but neither was it willing to leave him on the bench.

How the impeachment process works

House of Representatives: 1. Any member can introduce a resolution of impeachment if they suspect the president is guilty of "treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanors". 2. The House of Representatives considers the set of charges. If a simple majority (51%) support impeachment, the process moves to trial. Senate: 3. The trial begins. The chief justice of the Supreme Court presides over it, while members of the House form the prosecution and Senators act as the jury. The president can appoint defence lawyers. 4. At the end of the trial, a Senate vote delivers the outcome. If at least two-thirds (67%) of Senators find the president guilty, he is removed from office and the vice president takes over for the remainder of the term.

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