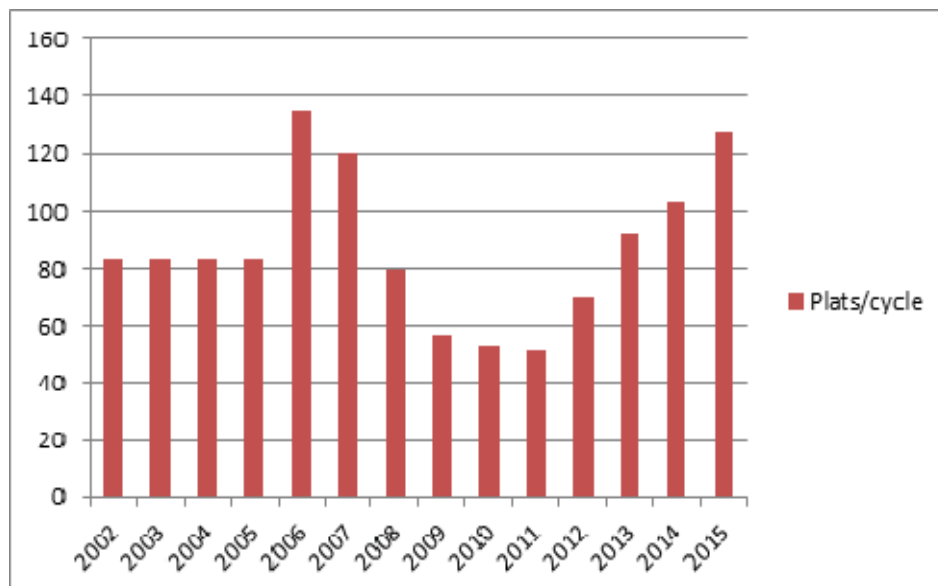


# PLATTING: All You Need to Know

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\* courtesy of the City of Houston Planning and Development Department

## PLATTING: All You Need to Know

Part of the Dev. Reg. process, but frequently misunderstood.

### *Origin:*

- Public law (health, safety and public welfare – the “police power”) not contract law.
- Different from zoning- Gov’t rights significantly limited when reviewing a plat.

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### *Basis* of subdivision control:

- Land registration system
- Registration is a privilege
- Gov’t grant/withhold registration approval based upon the compliance with conditions
- Legitimate government interest in
  - “promoting healthy and orderly development” and
  - protecting future lot owners

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## WHAT IS A . . . ? (The Jargon of Platting)

### **Subdivision (to subdivide, subdividing)**

The division of land

Subdividing ≠ platting

### **Platting (to plat) – Government process**

**Subdivision Plat (or Plat) –** Written depiction of the lots, blocks and reserves - Government Permit

**Planning Commission –** Appointed governmental body with plat approval authority

**Houston – 26 members**

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**Variance –** Right to vary from the literal word of the applicable regulation upon a showing of “hardship”

**Houston- requires supermajority vote**

**Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (“ETJ”)-** Special area surrounding a city where city has power of annexation and limited regulatory authority- City platting authority may be extended to ETJ

**Applicant –** Any “person” may be an applicant, but only an “owner” may actually plat property

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"Subdivision and Platting"