

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 19, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Dallas City News Network Broadcasting Studio at Fair Park**

Summary:

This memorandum is to inform you that staff will bring forward a final change order on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, to increase the original scope of work for the Dallas City News Network broadcasting studio project. This change order will address structural modifications, repairs and unforeseen conditions discovered during the project's construction phase. Information is also included to provide you with background on the overall project and outline next steps for operations.

Project Background:

On June 17, 2015, the Dallas City Council authorized a professional services contract with Russ Berger Design Group, Inc. for the Dallas City News Network government access television studio located at the Science Place II Building in Fair Park in the amount of \$301,000.

Staff briefed the City Council on November 2, 2016, on the project's construction build out and a program concept, called the Communications Policy Institute (CPI) that would be administered at the studio in collaboration with local educational partners.

On December 14, 2016, the City Council authorized a building construction services contract with Phoenix I Restoration and Construction, Ltd in an amount not to exceed \$5,146,800. Construction began in March 2017. Due to the historic nature of the building, the project has had two previous change orders over the course of construction. These change orders included required and necessary additions that had to be completed.

Although construction on the building began as scheduled, the final scope for the CPI program, and the interlocal agreements and memorandums of understanding between the City and educational partners to administer the program were never completed and executed. This was in large part due to the need to further assess viable options for the use of the building, and the lack of community engagement in the concept for the CPI.

Project Funding:

The Dallas City News Network project was funded using PEG (Public, Education, Government) funds. On December 14, 2016, in addition to awarding the construction contract, the City Manager was authorized to increase appropriations in PEG funding to

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increase the project's original estimated cost of \$5,146,800 for construction to \$10,774,151.37 to also account for equipment and furniture.

The construction phase totaled \$6,375,299.37 which included the required change orders. The remaining project balance is estimated at \$4.4 million to outfit the building with the necessary equipment and furniture.

Next Steps – Operations and Programming:

In FY 2019, the Public Affairs and Outreach Office (PAO) was transitioned under new leadership and has taken time to assess and review the original concept for the Dallas City News Network broadcasting studio, and subsequently the CPI program.

As a result, PAO is now focusing on revamping the programming concept to align more with a program centered around television broadcasting, and film and video production to promote and highlight City services. The PAO FY 2019 adopted budget included \$25,000 earmarked for the facility. Staff will utilize this funding for programming support and initial operational expenses.

Staff is also exploring the creation of an advisory group that would include members from the creative and film community to provide insight on how community members can take advantage of the facility's amenities (i.e. meeting space, video shooting stages, video editing space, podcasting, voice recording, etc.)

Additionally, staff is developing a more robust and comprehensive hands-on approach to immerse high school and undergrad students in television broadcasting and podcasting through the lens of City government.

Following next week's City Council Agenda Meeting, staff will schedule meetings with each Council Member to share the proposed program concept and discuss ways to leverage the City's government access television to engage with community members through visual storytelling. Staff will also be available at the GPFM Committee on Monday, May 20, 2019, to answer any further questions related to this project.

Please contact me or Gwendolyn Schuler, PAO director, if you have any questions.



Kimberly Bizer Toibert
Chief of Staff to the City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
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Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
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Directors and Assistant Directors