

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 27, 2017

Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Sandy Greyson (Chair),
TO Tiffinni A. Young (Vice-Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Mark Clayton, Philip T. Kingston, B. Adam
McGough

SUBJECT **Prisoner Reentry Services Pilot Program Update**

On August 8, 2016, the Quality of Life & Environment Committee was briefed on an upcoming City Council agenda item to authorize one-year sub-grants with Metroplex Economic Development Corporation (dba Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative [T.O.R.I.]) and City Wide Community Development Corporation to carry out services for a Prisoner Reentry Services Pilot program. Staff committed to provide the Committee with an update on the program after six months.

The Prisoner Reentry Services Pilot program provides participants with vital tools to combat relapses into criminal behavior. Many formerly incarcerated individuals are returned to prison because they lack the skills necessary to successfully reintegrate back into society. This program provides support and services to improve their ability to gain meaningful, stable employment.

This is a new State pilot grant program, with only the Cities of Dallas and Houston participating. \$1 million in funding came from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to the City of Dallas. While there were some initial challenges implementing this new program, especially as it relates to the monthly reporting requirements, many of those have been addressed and the program is currently working well. The sub-grantees are coordinating with non-profit entities, faith-based organizations, community groups, and private sector employers to provide the various reentry services.

As of January 2017, 58 participants have entered the program. This represents a little over half of the 105 originally proposed number of eligible participants that would be served in FY16-17. 30 have successfully gained employment. Services offered by the sub-grantees include case management, professional development, medical and behavioral health referrals, job readiness training, apprenticeships, and post placement services.

If you have any questions, please contact Brett Wilkinson in the Office of Intergovernmental Services at 214/670-5797.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joey Zapata".

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Larry Casto, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
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