

Memorandum



DATE January 16, 2026

CITY OF DALLAS

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council and City Manager
SUBJECT **City Auditor Resignation and Request for Nominating Commission Recommendations**

Council Colleagues and Executive Leadership,

City Auditor Mark Swann informed city council on January 14, 2026, that he plans to retire from the City on March 17, 2026. **See attached letter from Mr. Swann.** In accordance with Dallas City Code Sec 2-17.2, it is the responsibility of city council to facilitate the hiring process by appointing a nominating commission to select the city auditor. **See attached Dallas City Code Section 2-17.2.** I have asked the City Manager's Office for support from the Department of Human Resources and asked this topic to be noted for discussion and action on the upcoming January 26, 2026, meeting of the Committee on Finance.

Pursuant to the Dallas City Code, the "city council shall appoint a nominating commission to select a city auditor in accordance with Chapter IX, Section 1 of the city charter. The commission shall be composed of five members, including a chair and vice-chair, meeting the following qualifications:

- (1) One member must be a representative selected by the board of directors of the Dallas Chapter of one of the following professional organizations, including the: Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA); Institute for Internal Auditors (IIA); Information Systems Audit and Control Association, Inc. (ISACA); Financial Executives International (FEI); Association of Government Accountants (AGA); or other such organizations experienced in accounting and auditing.
- (2) Four members must meet any one of the following qualifications:
 - (A) Be a current or former managing or founding partner of a multi- national public accounting firm with offices located in the city, excluding any firm under current contract with the city to provide external audit services.
 - (B) Be one of the following persons associated with a publicly-traded company headquartered in Dallas County that has at least 500 million dollars in annual revenue:
 - (i) the current or former chief financial officer;
 - (ii) the current or former chief auditor of an internal audit group; or
 - (iii) the current or former chief executive officer.
 - (C) Be a former mayor or council member of the city.
 - (D) Be a current or former city auditor of the city."

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I ask that you submit names, contact information, and position(s) sought for prospective nominees for the nominating commission to my Chief of Staff Jake Ettinger (jake.ettinger@dallas.gov) no later than February 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. CST. Before submitting names of prospective nominees, please ensure the nominee is willing to serve on the commission.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.



Chad West
Chair, Committee on Finance

c: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Bilierae Johnson, City Secretary
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Nina Arias, Department of Human Resources Director

Memorandum



DATE: January 14, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and members of the City Council

SUBJECT: City Auditor Notice of Retirement on March 17, 2026

I have been truly blessed to serve as the City Auditor for the City of Dallas, Texas. It has been an honor to work for the residents of this great City, alongside Mayor Johnson, members of the City Council, and my fellow City officials for the past six and a half years.

As I approach retirement, I have mixed feelings about leaving many friends and staff behind and future goals unmet. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve four two-year terms as City Auditor for the City of Dallas. I am humbled by the confidence and responsibility entrusted in me to direct the critical task of independent audit assurance services for the City.

I am planning to retire from the City of Dallas effective March 17, 2026, to spend more time with my family.

For your reference, I have attached *Dallas City Code* § 2-17.2 that outlines the process for nominating a new City Auditor.

Best wishes and keep up the good work.

Respectfully,

Mark S. Swann
City Auditor

Attachment

c: Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, City Manager
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Bilierae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager

Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff
Nina Arias, Director, Human Resources
Sheri Kowalski, City Controller

SEC. 2-17.2. SELECTION OF CITY AUDITOR; NOMINATING COMMISSION.

(a) Before the end of each term of a city auditor, or at such other times when a vacancy occurs or is anticipated to occur in the office of city auditor, the city council shall appoint a nominating commission to select a city auditor in accordance with Chapter IX, Section 1 of the city charter. The **commission** shall be composed of **five members**, including a chair and vice-chair, meeting the following qualifications:

(1) **One member** must be a representative selected by the board of directors of the Dallas Chapter of one of the following professional organizations, including the: Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA); Institute for Internal Auditors (IIA); Information Systems Audit and Control Association, Inc. (ISACA); Financial Executives International (FEI); Association of Government Accountants (AGA); or other such organizations experienced in accounting and auditing.

(2) **Four members** must meet any one of the following qualifications:

(A) Be a current or former managing or founding partner of a multi-national public accounting firm with offices located in the city, excluding any firm under current contract with the city to provide external audit services.

(B) Be one of the following persons associated with a publicly-traded company headquartered in Dallas County that has at least 500 million dollars in annual revenue:

- (i) the current or former chief financial officer;
- (ii) the current or former chief auditor of an internal audit group; or
- (iii) the current or former chief executive officer.

(C) Be a former mayor or council member of the city.

(D) Be a current or former city auditor of the city.

(b) A person appointed to the **city auditor nominating commission** under Subsection (a)(2) or (a)(3)(B) of this section is not required to be a resident or qualified voter of the city of Dallas.

(c) The commission shall, within 15 days after being appointed, hold its first meeting to consider nomination of a person to serve as city auditor. Within 180 days after its first meeting, the commission shall nominate to the city council one or more candidates for city auditor selected by a majority of the commission members. The city council shall, within 30 days after receipt of the nomination, accept one of the nominated candidates or reject all of the candidates.

(d) If the city council rejects all candidates nominated for city auditor, it shall immediately notify the commission and request the nomination of different

candidates. Commission members shall serve until the city council accepts a candidate nominated by them to be city auditor.

(e) The director of human resources of the city shall assist the commission, when necessary, in seeking and screening applicants for the position of city auditor.

(f) Notwithstanding Subsections (a) through (e) of this section, at the end of a city auditor's term (including any period in which a city auditor is holding over), the city council government performance and financial management committee may, on its own initiative or at the direction of the city council, act as a nominating commission and, by a majority vote, nominate the incumbent city auditor for reappointment by the full city council. If a majority of the government performance and financial management committee does not vote to nominate the incumbent city auditor for another term, or if, upon receiving the nomination from the finance and audit committee, a majority of the city council does not vote to reappoint the incumbent city auditor for another term, then the nominating process described in Subsections (a) through (e) must be followed. (Ord. Nos. 20457; 21157; 22026; 22277; 22414; 25495; 25808; [30969](#))