

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 23, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Additional Racial Equity Plan Investments**

Please find additional equity efforts to support the City in activating the Racial Equity Plan (REP). These efforts are in alignment with the REP's Big Audacious Goals and Department Progress Measures to address disparities in Dallas. My intention is to integrate REP efforts into forthcoming budget recommendations to advance City Council equity goals. These efforts use FY 2021-22 one-time excess revenue and are projects that department leadership have identified as advancing the REP and ripe for advancement in the coming fiscal year.

Below you will find alignment to the REP, brief description of the work to be performed and the proposed funding amount:

## **Big Audacious Goals 1 & 5: Economic, Workforce and Community Development; Public Safety and Wellness**

### **1. Martyr's Park Parking and Accessibility**

The Office of Arts and Culture will use the funding to increase accessibility and parking at Martyr's Park. The Public Art piece Shadow Lines by Studio Resite will be a reflective three-dimensional work that will be a Memorial for the Victims of Racial Violence, those known and unknown, at Martyr's Park which was a site used for the lynching and murder of African American residents in Dallas. OAC will work with the Park and Recreation Department and the Departments of Transportation and Public Works on this project. This funding will directly benefit access to Martyr's Park and is aligned to the OAC's REP progress measure to increase the number of historically disadvantaged community equity-specific works of art that confront historic racism, commissioned for or donated to the Public Art Collection by 2024.

### **REP Alignment:**

Office of Arts and Culture Progress Measure: 4

- Increase the number of historically disadvantaged community equity-specific works of art that confront historic racism, commissioned for or donated to the Public Art Collection from 18 to 23 (of ~300 pieces total) by 2024.

Big Audacious Goal Economic, Workforce, & Community Development: 1.10

- Engage residents through arts and cultural programs that full integrate neighborhoods and historically disadvantaged communities into civic life and

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create a community ecosystem where art and culture are values in every neighborhood.

**Proposed Funding:** \$750,000.00

## **2. Family Support and Empowerment Initiative**

The Family Support and Empowerment Initiative will provide direct assistance to families in equity priority areas through a partnership with a local nonprofit organization administrator. The effort draws from research on direct assistance, shallow rent subsidies and similar models. Participating families will receive a monthly benefit of \$250 and connections to social services support programs. These funds will enable the department to pilot this model by serving approximately 325 families.

Some examples of City-administered programs include Austin's UpTogether program (<https://www.uptogether.org/>), a recent report for which shows that participants increased employment, decreased debt, improved housing stability, and 6% of program participants who were renters became homeowners during the program period.

### **REP Alignment:**

Office of Community Care Progress Measure: 5

- Serve 500 families with cash transfers of \$250/mo. for one year, including case management as needed and additional wraparound supports by July 2024, as permitted by law.

Big Audacious Goal: 1.3

- Improve small to large scale development and social support where food insecurity and predatory lending institutions have further marginalized historically disadvantaged communities.

Big Audacious Goal: 1.5

- Promote community wellness by increasing access to quality, affordable, nutritious options for food, meals and critical hygiene items by aligning social services, nutrition education, urban agriculture, and financial investments in equity priority areas and other areas with demonstrated needs.

**Proposed Funding:** \$1,000,000.00

## **3. Rapid Resilience Community Ambassador Initiative**

The Office of Equity & Inclusion – Welcoming Communities & Immigrant Affairs will collaborate with trusted community organizations to expand an effort developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to improve bi-directional communications with the City and language diverse communities and historically disadvantaged communities employing community ambassadors/*promotoras*. The community ambassadors will connect residents with critical city services and receive input from residents by deploying culturally

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responsive community engagement methods. The Equity Assessment Tool will be utilized to identify geographic areas still recovering from the negative impacts of the pandemic.

**REP Alignment:**

Office of Equity and Inclusion Performance Measure: 3

- Increase the number of immigrant leaders on WCIA Taskforce from 25% to 40% by December 2023

Big Audacious Goal: 1.10

- Engage residents through arts and cultural programs funding that fully integrate historically disadvantaged communities into civic life.

Big Audacious Goal: 5.13

- Uphold community wellness while utilizing a holistic approach in tandem with public safety (e.g., community outreach and education on rights).

**Proposed Funding: \$250,000.00**

**4. Period Access Dallas**

The Period Access Dallas (PAD) initiative was launched earlier this year to make available free period products in City facilities, such as libraries, recreation centers, and community centers. The initial pilot focused on sites located within certain census tracts due to funding restrictions, but funding will allow this to expand to sites across the City. Period products, such as pad and tampons, are a necessary product for many, but are not provided for through SNAP, WIC nor other public benefits, and are not exempt from sales tax.

**REP Alignment:**

Big Audacious Goal: 1.5

- Promote community wellness by increasing access to quality, affordable, nutritious options for food, meals and critical hygiene items by aligning social services, nutrition education, urban agriculture, and financial investments in equity priority areas and other areas with demonstrated needs.

**Proposed Funding: \$500,000.00**

## **Big Audacious Goals 2 and 3: Environmental Justice; and Housing**

### **5. Jeffries-Meyers Environmental Assessment**

The identified funding will support the City in assessing properties in the Jeffries-Meyers area for environmental contamination and remediation as needed for protection of human health and the environment.

#### **REP Alignment:**

Big Audacious Goal: 2.13

- Implement a new Brownfield Program.

Big Audacious Goal Housing: 3.4

- Address properties in areas with identified environmental rehabilitation challenges (e.g. new Brownfields programs, the Texas Voluntary Cleanup Program, and other ways of addressing site contaminants) to ensure future development is protective of human health and the environment.

**Proposed Funding:** \$500,000.00

### **6. Neighborhood-level Air Monitors**

This investment in neighborhood-level air monitors will assist the City in quantifying neighborhood-level air pollution within the City of Dallas, particularly in our equity priority areas, share neighborhood-level air monitoring data with our residents, and inform future policy decisions to address disproportionately. The investment in approximately 50 additional neighborhood air monitors will add to approximately 40-50 monitors already planned for the City's neighborhood-level air monitoring network. The City will prioritize the installation and operation of these monitors in equity priority areas.

#### **REP Alignment:**

Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability Progress Measure: 1

- Increase the amount of neighborhood level air quality monitors in equity priority areas by end of fiscal year 2025 [Baseline to be developed].'

Big Audacious Goal Environment Justice: 2.3

- Improve air and water quality in equity priority areas to promote equitable environmental and public health outcomes using data to assess trends and areas of concern (e.g., nature-based solutions, neighborhood air quality monitoring program by deploying non-regulatory air monitors in overburdened communities).

Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan: AQ2

**Proposed Funding:** \$250,000.00

# **Big Audacious Goals 3 & 1: Housing and Economic, Workforce, & Community Development**

## **7. Anti-Displacement Homebuyer Assistance Fund**

The rising cost of living in Dallas is making it increasingly more difficult for current residents to remain in their homes or find new homes in Dallas. This program would target historically disadvantaged communities; homebuyers with more than 10 years of City of Dallas residency, who earn 60-120% of the area median income, purchasing a home in the city limits of Dallas. The amount of assistance is based on need up to \$50,000 per household.

### **REP Alignment:**

Big Audacious Goal Housing: 3.1

- Target affordable housing investments and neighborhood revitalization in stronger housing markets (e.g., Market Value Analysis – MVA), and underserved communities to address longstanding inequities in one of the 15 federally-designated Opportunity Zones; areas where it is possible to drive capital to support new businesses and investments by providing deferred capital gains taxes, among other tax benefits to address longstanding inequities. In addition, opportunities for mixed income housing developments will be pursued through Hensley Field, the International District and other major development planned for Dallas

Big Audacious Goal Housing: 3.2

- Ensure capacity for current and future developers to recognize the advantage of developing South of I-30 (Specific areas to be identified). This target is here to highlight the economic good and benefit of implementing infrastructure equity (e.g., attracting businesses)

**Proposed Funding:** \$1,000,000.00

## **8. Housing Relocation Assistance and Rent Subsidies**

The Office of Community Care will serve approximately 165 families in equity priority areas with a focus on communities served by the Office of Integrated Public Safety Solution Apartment Community Team and/or identified using rental assistance program data. Families will be identified by applying a selection process that utilizes an equity lens. The program will provide relocation support, rent deposits, and a shallow monthly rent subsidy to enable families to relocate and maintain housing.

### **REP Alignment:**

Big Audacious Goal: 1.3

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- Improve small to large scale development and social support where food insecurity and predatory lending institutions have further marginalized historically disadvantaged communities.

Big Audacious Goal: 3.2

- Deploy anti-displacement strategies in transitioning neighborhoods (e.g., gentrification) to address longstanding inequities by ensuring zoning is inclusive of historically disadvantaged communities to encourage sustainability and thriving opportunities.

**Proposed Funding:** \$1,000,000.00

## **Big Audacious Goal 4: Infrastructure**

### **9. Infrastructure/Land Acquisition Pleasant Grove**

Funding will support infrastructure and/or land acquisition in the Pleasant Grove area. Potential improvements include such things as infrastructure (short and long-term) including transit accessibility, infrastructure upgrades such as illumination, crosswalks, sidewalks, signal operation upgrades, planning studies and/or land acquisition to support either new commercial or housing development.

#### **REP Alignment:**

Public Works Progress Measure: 1

- Public Works will work with the Paving model results to have a minimum of 20% of lane miles come from equity priority areas starting in FY 23. (The Pavement Condition Index is what is used to identify distresses in the pavement. These distresses are used to develop a Pavement Condition Index score and rating. The process is outlined on the Street Treatment Selection Manual found on the Pavement Management website.).

Big Audacious Goal Neighborhood and Infrastructure: 4.3

- Address infrastructure needs to ensure future development of affordable and mixed-market homes.

Big Audacious Goal Neighborhood and Infrastructure: 4.4

- Ensure capacity for current and future developers to recognize the advantage of developing South of I-30 (Specific areas to be identified). This target is here to highlight the economic good and benefit of implementing infrastructure equity (e.g., attracting businesses)

**Proposed Funding:** \$2,250,000.00

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### **10. Five Mile Infrastructure**

The identified funding for specific Five Mile Infrastructure will cover the shortfall for the construction of the following projects currently under design: (1) Persimmon from Tracy to Bonnie View; (2) Tracy from Givendale to Persimmon; (3) Givendale from Lancaster to Tracy; (4) Plum Dale from Givendale to Pall Mall; (5) Pall Mall from Lancaster to Tracy. These projects align with Indicator 32, Street Quality: Ratio between the average pavement condition index ratings in racially diverse and majority-white neighborhoods.

#### **REP Alignment:**

Public Works Progress Measure: 1

- Public Works will work with the Paving model results to have a minimum of 20% of lane miles come from equity priority areas starting in FY 23. (The Pavement Condition Index is what is used to identify distresses in the pavement. These distresses are used to develop a Pavement Condition Index score and rating. The process is outlined on the Street Treatment Selection Manual found on the Pavement Management website.).

Big Audacious Goal Neighborhood and Infrastructure: 4.4

- Ensure capacity for current and future developers to recognize the advantage of developing South of I-30 (Specific areas to be identified). This target is here to highlight the economic good and benefit of implementing infrastructure equity (e.g., attracting businesses)

**Proposed Funding:** \$4,000,000.00

### **11. Joppa Infrastructure**

Joppa is one of the older Freedman communities in Dallas and this identified funding supports the design and construction of two projects in an equity priority area: (1) Stokes St., from Hull of End of Pavement and (2) Hull Ave., from Linfield to Burma.

#### **REP Alignment:**

Public Works Progress Measure: 1

- Public Works will work with the Paving model results to have a minimum of 20% of lane miles come from equity priority areas starting in FY 23. (The Pavement Condition Index is what is used to identify distresses in the pavement. These distresses are used to develop a Pavement Condition Index score and rating. The process is outlined on the Street Treatment Selection Manual found on the Pavement Management website.).

Big Audacious Goal Neighborhood and Infrastructure: 4.4

- Ensure capacity for current and future developers to recognize the advantage of developing South of I-30 (Specific areas to be identified). This target is here to

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highlight the economic good and benefit of implementing infrastructure equity (e.g., attracting businesses)

**Proposed Funding:** \$3,500,000.00

### **12. West Dallas Area Infrastructure**

The West Dallas Infrastructure project will include condition-based infrastructure improvements such as street resurfacing and/or sidewalk and barrier free ramps construction in equity priority areas.

#### **REP Alignment:**

Public Works Progress Measure Department Progress Measure: 1

- Public Works will work with the Paving model results to have a minimum of 20% of lane miles come from equity priority areas starting in FY 23. (The Pavement Condition Index is what is used to identify distresses in the pavement. These distresses are used to develop a Pavement Condition Index score and rating. The process is outlined on the Street Treatment Selection Manual found on the Pavement Management website.).

Big Audacious Goal Neighborhood and Infrastructure: 4.4

- Ensure capacity for current and future developers to recognize the advantage of developing South of I-30 (Specific areas to be identified, in this effort West Dallas). This target is here to highlight the economic good and benefit of implementing infrastructure equity (e.g., attracting businesses)

**Proposed Funding:** \$2,000,000.00

### **13. Cadillac Heights Park and Facility Infrastructure**

The Cadillac Heights Park and Facility Infrastructure project will improve an economic corridor in an equity priority area by creating a green space that improves the quality of life and becomes a destination area not only for the community, but for visitors to the City. The improvements will include but not limited to a loop trail, pavilion, playground, basketball courts, an athletic field & track, furnishings, and landscaping.

#### **REP Alignment:**

Public Works Progress Measure: 1

- Public Works will work with the Paving model results to have a minimum of 20% of lane miles come from equity priority areas starting in FY 23. (The Pavement Condition Index is what is used to identify distresses in the pavement. These distresses are used to develop a Pavement Condition Index score and rating. The process is outlined on the Street Treatment Selection Manual found on the Pavement Management website.).

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Big Audacious Goal Neighborhood and Infrastructure: 4.4

- Ensure capacity for current and future developers to recognize the advantage of developing South of I-30 (Specific areas to be identified). This target is here to highlight the economic good and benefit of implementing infrastructure equity (e.g., attracting businesses)

**Proposed Funding: \$3,000,000.00**

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.



T.C. Broadnax  
City Manager

c: Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira  
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager  
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager  
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Directors and Assistant Directors