

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 24, 2018

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **MLK Celebration Planning Committee**

For over 30 years, the City of Dallas has embraced the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an annual celebration meant to bring our local, and diverse communities together to further the cause of Dr. King for equality as well as the socioeconomic issues Dr. King championed during his lifelong career of activism.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Advisory Board was established to make recommendations to the center manager regarding programs and policies within the center. The Board shall consist of 15 members, with each city council member appointing one member to the board and the Mayor appointing the chair. The Board currently has 7 total vacant positions, including the chair, which creates a significant impediment to holding productive meetings. Additionally, several current members have attendance issues. Two of the 3 most recent scheduled meetings were unable to be held due to a lack of quorum.

Due to quorum challenges, the 2019 MLK Celebration Planning Committee was established in March 2018 and held its first meeting on April 9, 2018. The Planning Committee is comprised of community members and volunteers as well as several members of the MLK Community Center Advisory Board. The current Committee composition includes 15 members, who have established sub-committee groups to support the planning of several MLK Celebration Week events. To date, there have been no volunteers from the Committee to serve on the Fundraising Subcommittee.

The City of Dallas is very fortunate to be comprised of many different cultures, nationalities, and diverse backgrounds. It is important that as we continue to grow this celebration and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we must be sure to incorporate feedback received from our City Council, their policy directives and strategic priorities. Some of those policy efforts include but are not limited to **1) Human and Social Needs as a Strategic Priority, 2) the City's "Dallas Resilience" report 3) Mayor Rawlings Poverty Taskforce Report, and, 4) the establishment of the City's Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs and the proposed Office of Equity and Human Rights.** We must also consider the ideas and opinions of the various backgrounds that comprise our communities to make for a wholesome and meaningful event that reflects our great community.

To aid in this effort, I have asked Assistant City Manager, Nadia Chandler Hardy and Jessica Galleshaw, Managing Director of the Office of Community Care, to identify potential participants from the following areas to serve on the MLK Celebration Planning Committee:

- 3 community leaders from our Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs consortium
- 2 members from the City of Dallas Youth Commission
- 3 representatives from the Equity and Human Rights network

Staff from the following areas will support the Committee:

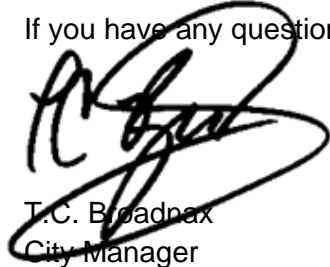
- 2 staff members from City Manager's Office
- 1 staff member from Public Affairs Office
- 1 staff member from the Office of Business Diversity

DATE August 22, 2018

SUBJECT **MLK Celebration Planning Committee**

I also want to ensure the Planning committee is well-accommodated and can meet more frequently. I have asked Nadia Chandler Hardy to open meeting space for the Committee here at City Hall and make a determination as to the frequency of meetings to ensure all planning efforts are complete and successful. I expect this transition to take place as soon as possible, but no later than September 10, 2018.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.C. Broadnax', written over a circular scribble.

T.C. Broadnax  
City Manager

c: Pamela Jones, Manager III