

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 10, 2017

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Urban Libraries Council Innovator Award for Dallas Public Library**

I am delighted to announce that the Dallas Public Library was selected as a 2017 Top Innovator for its outstanding program, *GED Testing and Workforce Development Project* by the Urban Libraries Council (ULC), which annually recognizes public libraries that have performed outstanding work that reflects their community and citizens.

The ULC has recognized the Dallas Public Library for making adult learning experiences and career and workforce readiness training a part of its regular, free services, that are responsive to the needs of our residents, improving equity and access to opportunities.

As you know, City Council's adopted budgets allowed the Dallas Public Library to continue and expand services in the GED Testing Center at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library that was opened and operated through grants from the Texas State Libraries and Archives Commission. We also appreciate the corporate sponsorship of *Atmos Energy*, whose support makes possible over 1,000 scholarships annually for GED exams in our Testing Center, which has the highest rate of any Dallas testing location.

In addition to presenting an award to Dallas Public Library director Jo Giudice, ULC has recognized the Dallas Public Library in the published *2017 Top Innovators* brochure which is distributed to library and local government leaders across North America. ULC has also showcased the library's innovation on the ULC website and in communications with members and partners at <https://www.urbanlibraries.org/2017-innovations-pages-682.php>

ULC is a membership association of North America's leading libraries. Founded in 1971, ULC is the voice for public libraries and the force that inspires them to evolve. And by serving as a forum for library leadership, ULC produces innovative ideas and best practices that ensure community impact.

Please contact me if you have questions.

A handwritten signature in blue 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
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary (Interim)
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
- Jo M. (Jody) Puckett, Assistant City Manager (Interim)
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Chief of Community Services
Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services
Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience
Directors and Assistant Directors