

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 16, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Office of Homeless Solutions Affordable Supportive Housing Update**

In August 2018, the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) presented a briefing to the full City Council on the proposed four-track process to expand shelter capacity, create temporary shelter centers, address the bottleneck and availability of housing, and bond implementation to develop rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. Subsequent briefings and memorandums were provided to the City Council on each of the first three tracks.

On May 15, 2019, staff presented a briefing to the full City Council on Track 4 of the Homeless Solutions Strategy. Track 4 is the implementation of Proposition J Bond funds in the amount of \$20 million to “fund transitional and permanent supportive housing to target chronic homelessness, rapid rehousing for the elderly, disabled and families with children and day centers for seamless wrap-around services.” The briefing outlined potential City-owned, other publicly owned, and privately owned sites to the City Council for discussion. As a result, the general direction from the City Council centered around pursuing City-owned sites to maximize available Bond resources.

Following the May briefing to the full City Council, staff presented to the Human and Social Needs Committee on June 3, 2019 outlining the proposed next steps to advance Track 4 utilizing a Request for Developer Interest (RDI) process. The briefing included anticipated “to be scheduled” community engagement meetings. Staff did not provide a follow-up communication related to the community engagement dates nor did they share the information broadly to ensure widespread community input in the process.

Community input is an essential component in the process of advancing public programs that can have significant impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. The effort to identify solutions for our City’s homeless is no different. It is clear that the process to receive community input did not meet my expectations, therefore, it is my responsibility to take corrective action.

In order to take the appropriate time to reassess our existing strategy and approach, I have directed staff to cancel the current RDI as it relates to Track 4. Staff will provide a briefing to the appropriate committee as soon as committees resume, or to the full City Council for input, before proceeding further. It is my hope that restarting this process with more consistent communication will restore confidence in the integrity of this initiative and the importance of caring for our most vulnerable populations.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly. I welcome the opportunity to visit with you further regarding this issue during our monthly one-on-one meetings or whenever your schedules allow.

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In the Spirit of Excellence!!



T.C. Broadnax  
City Manager

c: Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer  
Directors and Assistant Directors