

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 27, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Taking Care of Business – September 26, 2019**

Updated Items

[Encampment Resolution Schedule – September 24, 2019 & September 30, 2019](#)

The Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) has scheduled the following sites for homeless encampment resolution on:

| September 24, 2019 | September 30, 2019 |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lyndon B Johnson Freeway- Eastbound and North Central Expressway- Southbound (District 11)• 9216 Lyndon B Johnson Service road- Eastbound (District 10)• Lyndon B Johnson Freeway- Eastbound and Greenville Avenue (District 10)• North Stemmons Freeway- Southbound and Royal Lane (District 6)• 9999 Denton Drive/Denton Drive at Northwest Highway (District 6)• 1121 Round Table Drive (District 6)• North Stemmons Freeway at Medical District (District 6) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2880 North Haskell Street (District 2)• 815 South RL Thornton Freeway (District 1)• 500 South Hill Avenue (District 2)• 4900 East RL Thornton Freeway (District 2)• 1001 South Riverfront Boulevard (District 2)• 1800 South Boulevard (District 7)• 647 South Haskell Street (District 2) |

OHS Street Outreach team will continue to engage with homeless individuals to provide notice of clean-up and connect to resources and shelter. OHS Community Mobilization staff are meeting with stakeholders to determine long-term sustainability of encampment sites and will provide periodic updates. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer, and Monica Hardman, Director of Office of Homeless Solutions.

[Speed Mentoring Event Follow-up](#)

On Friday, September 20, 2019 the Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs (WCIA), in collaboration with Goldman Sachs and Mountain View College, organized a Speed Mentoring Workshop for over 20 residents. Anyone could register and participants were from all over the city and with different education and professional backgrounds. A diverse panel of professionals spoke about their experiences, reflections, and tips for students interested pursuing careers in law, medicine and finance. Following the panel, both professionals and attendees broke into two concurrent sessions where attendees chose between having their resume reviewed or participating in a mock interview. At the end of breakout sessions, everyone gathered to eat lunch and network. Free LinkedIn headshots were also provided. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion.

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New Items

[National Night Out](#)

On October 1, 2019 the City of Dallas will celebrate the 36th Annual National Night Out (NNO) event. The NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes community-police partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Communities across the city will be hosting block parties, parades, cookouts, and various events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, exhibits, and more. Residents may find local events [here](#) through an interactive map and general information about the event [here](#). Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kristen Mcneal, Community Engagement Manager for the Mayor's Office and National Night Out Coordinator.

[Neighborhood Vitality Grant Cycle](#)

The 2019-2020 Dallas Neighborhood Vitality Grant (DNVG) cycle opens October 1, 2019 with applications due by November 18. The DNVG program awards grants from \$1,500 to \$10,000 for projects that address specific neighborhood needs while increasing resident engagement, promoting neighborhood pride, and building stronger organizations. The Planning and Urban Design Department will host a series of seven information sessions and a grant writing workshop at various locations throughout the city to prepare neighborhood organizations to submit a complete application. Attendance required for eligibility and details about the program, sessions, and registration can be found [here](#). Applicants are encouraged to register before attending. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Peer Chacko, Director of Planning and Urban Design.

[What Works Cities](#)

On September 10, 2019, the City joined the What Works Cities (WWC) initiative launched by Bloomberg Philanthropies. WWC is a program that helps local governments improve residents' lives by using data and evidence to effectively tackle pressing challenges. WWC is one of the largest-ever philanthropic efforts to enhance cities' use of data and you can find information about the program [here](#). All Dallas employees now have free access to the WWC Training Academy courses and resources. The Academy offers training on a range of topics from basic data literacy to behavioral insights and is available to all levels of knowledge and experience. To get started, employees must create an account at the [Training Academy](#) using access code unique access code. This code is also a coupon to be used when registering for courses as it allows access to all content for free. Contact the Office of Innovation to retrieve the code and for additional information about the program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer.

[Values Ambassador Program](#)

On Thursday, September 26, the Values Ambassador Program held its first meeting hosted by the Department of Aviation at Dallas Love Field. Values Ambassadors met to conduct ethics training and to discuss the first 45 days in their role. The program was launched by the Office of Ethics and Compliance (EAD) in May 2019 and 40 employees from 22 departments have become Values Ambassadors with the mission to promote the City's Values of Service. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion.

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[Speak Up Line](#)

The Office of Ethics and Compliance (EAD) is working with the City Auditor's Office (AUD) and Public Affairs and Outreach (PAO) to create media and marketing materials to promote the renaming of the "Fraud, Waste, & Abuse" hotline to the "Speak Up Line". This is part of an initiative to create a "speak up" culture within the City and to encourage transparency. Posters and communications will be available in the upcoming weeks and will be shared with you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion.

[\\$500,000 Grant to Preserve African American History](#)

On September 24, 2019 the City was awarded a National Park Service (NPS) Grant in the amount of \$500,000 to preserve the Juanita J. Craft Civil Rights House at 2618 Warren Ave., in the Phyllis Wheatly Historic District of South Dallas. This funding will support major renovations that will preserve a piece of African American civil rights history in Dallas. The house was damaged by major flooding in May 2018. Through this nationally recognized award, the NPS seeks to support efforts nationwide to preserve resources, places, and stories that tell defining parts of U.S. history and the African American experience and the civil rights movement. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager.

[Media Inquiries](#)

As of September 18, 2019, the City has received media requests from various news outlets regarding the following topics:

- Water Main Break on Canton
- Possible Pythons at White Rock Lake
- Robert E Lee Statue
- DFR Deploys 9 of its Own to Assist with Imelda Aftermath
- Local Printing Press Business Destroyed by Two-Alarm Fire
- Church-Owned South Dallas Building Destroyed by Fire
- DFR Dispatches Resources to Assist with Imelda's Aftermath in South Texas
- Man Drowns After Kayak Overturns in Lake Ray Hubbard
- Firefighter Suffers Minor Burns in Southeast Dallas House Fire

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Please see the attached document compiling information provided to the media outlets for the September 18 – September 24, 2019 for your reference. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff.



T.C. Broadnax
City Manager

- c: Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera 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
- Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer
M. Elizabeth Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors

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**Public Affairs & Outreach
Media Requests
September 18 – September 24**

Date: September 19, 2019

Topic: Water Main Break on Canton

Summary of Statement: Repairs were made, and water restored at 12:54 p.m. Temporary paving will be placed down to open all lanes between 3 and 4 p.m.

Department: Dallas Water Utilities

Media Entity: Karen Ballesteros, Assignment Editor, NBC 5
Mike Pool, Assignment Editor, WFAA

Date: September 18, 2019

Topic: Possible pythons at White Rock Lake

Summary of Statement: There have not been any sightings or reports of pythons at White Rock Lake

Department: PKR, DWU

Media Entity: WFAA

Date: Sept. 20, 2019

Topic: Robert E Lee statue

Summary of Statement: The City does not have any information as to the whereabouts of the sculpture

Department: OCA

Media Entity: WFAA

Dallas Fire-Rescue Department
Media Requests: September 16 - 22, 2019.

Tuesday, September 17th: All local media outlets - What information do you have on the 2-alarm fire on Directors Row? Are all your crews safe?

City Response - At [17:44](#) Dallas Fire-Rescue units were assigned to a 911 call for a structure fire at Lincoln Press, located at 9020 Directors Row, near Highway 183 and Regal Row.

When firefighters arrived at the one-story commercial structure, they observed lots of smoke coming from the roof. Though they initiated an offensive attack, a second alarm was requested for the fire after the building suffered a partial roof collapse; and as an additional result, firefighting efforts became defensive in nature.

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Between approximately 40 and 50 firefighters worked the incident, and there were no reported injuries. While the fire appears to be contained, they are still pouring water onto the structure to make sure the flames are completely out.

There was one person (reported as an employee) inside the building when the fire began but she was able to make it out safely. Simultaneous to her evacuating the building, someone from a neighboring business witnessed what was going on and called 911 reporting smoke coming from an air conditioning unit on the roof of the building.

Due to the extensive damage caused by the fire, investigators were unable to make entry into the building. However, in speaking with the sole occupant, and witness, they don't believe there to be anything suspicious about the cause. Until follow-up investigative efforts can be made the cause of the fire will officially remain undetermined.

Wednesday, September 18th: CBS 11 (Tiffany Moore) & NBC5/Telemundo (Karen Ballesteros) - Hi there, can you give me any information about the fire at Wheatland and Hampton?

City Response - At [16:10](#) Dallas Fire-Rescue units responded to a 911 call for a structure fire at a vacant building, located at 8000 South Hampton Road, in South Dallas.

When firefighters arrived at the one-story vacant structure, it was fully involved and efforts went defensive early on. Firefighters used hand-lines and master streams to pour water onto the structure; and after a partial roof collapse, the fire was declared extinguished in just under an hour.

The building, formerly part of the Arbor Acre School, was actually owned by the Wheatland United Methodist Church. Due to the amount of damage it sustained, the building has been deemed unsafe for entry and will subsequently be torn down. As an additional result, the cause of the fire will remain undetermined.

There were no reported injuries as a result of this fire.

Thursday, September 19th: All local media outlets – Is DFR sending any resources to Southeast Texas to assist with the search and rescue efforts from the storm?

City Response – On Thursday, September 19th, at approximately 6:00 a.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue received a request from Texas Task Force 1 for assistance with the aftermath of Imelda after it made landfall.

Almost immediately, DFR (per the request) rostered six members and sent two rescue boats to assist; which are expected to be deployed for up to two weeks. Currently, they are en route to Beaumont, TX, where they'll receive more specific information about exactly what role they'll play.

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Friday, September 20th: **The following information will soon be sent to the local media outlets** – Friday, September 20th, Dallas Fire-Rescue received a Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) for one tactical tender, staffed with three members, to assist in the post-Imelda recovery efforts. Specifically, the members will be taking the tender to Vidor, Texas, where they are expected to back-fill at fire stations while the first responders of that community are out addressing the most immediate emergency response needs resulting from the storm. There is not definitive timeline for the duration of the deployment, but it could last several weeks.

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Saturday, September 21st: **All local media outlets** - Is there any information available on a water rescue under way at Lake Ray Hubbard?

City Response - At [10:48](#) a.m. Dallas Fire-Rescue units were assigned to a 911 call for a water rescue after a kayak, carrying an adult male and female reportedly preparing for a race, capsized in Lake Ray Hubbard.

More specifically, the incident took place at Windsurf Bay Park, located at 5556 Locust Grove Road, and neither passenger was wearing a life vest. While the woman resurfaced and was promptly rescued by a bystander in a boat, the man never did.

Multiple agencies, to include DFR, DPD, Rowlett FD and the Texas Game Warden, worked in conjunction to search the water. After getting a promising sonar hit, DPD's Dive Team made their way into the lake and recovered the man's body at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 22nd: **Dallas Morning News (Darcy Birden)** - I am reaching out about the structure fire at 2300 Jordan St. Is there any information available?

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City Response - At 10:00 a.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue responded to a 911 call for a structure fire at a home, located at the 2300 block of Jordan Street, in Southeast Dallas. Initial reports indicated several children being inside the structure, but when firefighters arrive at the location they found there were only two adult males inside the home; and they both were able to make it out safely. Approximately 22 firefighters responded to the scene and put the flames out in approximately 15 minutes. Unfortunately, one firefighter suffered minor burns during fire operations. He was taken to a local hospital for evaluation but is expected to be okay. Reportedly, there were as many as six people living in the house, so the American Red Cross was called out to assist them with their needs. Investigators determined the cause to be accidental in nature, and most probably began as the result of an unspecified electrical short of a window air conditioning unit.