

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 10, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Appointment of Monitor for the Office of Community Police Oversight**

After an extensive search and interview process that included the Community Police Oversight Board Chair and various community stakeholders, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Tanya McClary as the City's first Monitor for the newly created Office of Community Police Oversight, effective February 24, 2020.

Ms. McClary currently serves as the Chief Monitor of the Office of the Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ms. McClary possesses a Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in English and African American Studies from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. In her current position as the Chief Monitor of the Office of the Independent Police Monitor, Ms. McClary monitors investigations that involve the use of force by the New Orleans Police Department and directly oversees the OIPM Use of Force Department. She also handles oversight of disciplinary hearings and complaints that involve the use of force. Ms. McClary has previously served as the founder and principal of McClary and Associates, where she worked on criminal, civil rights and human rights cases at the local and national levels. She has over 20 years of legal experience, focusing on criminal defense, mitigation and human/civil rights cases.

I am excited about Ms. McClary joining the City of Dallas, and I look forward to her beginning the work to foster renewed trust and improved relationships with the residents of Dallas. Upon starting her tenure with the City, Ms. McClary will begin the important work of staffing and operating the Office of Community Police Oversight.

A complete bio for Ms. McClary is attached for your review

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.



Jon Fortune  
Assistant City Manager

[Attachment]

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, 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



**Tonya McClary** is a pastor, lawyer, advocate, organizer and artist. Her life's works are in the areas of transformative justice, criminal justice, healing, civil and human rights and for over two decades, Tonya has been realizing her vision. Tonya is currently the Chief Monitor over Use of Force at the Office of the Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) in New Orleans, Louisiana. Tonya's position was newly created in the office; therefore, part of her mandate was to build the department, create the policies that would govern it, develop best practices for use of force civilian oversight and other foundational tasks. Tonya's department has now become a model for other oversight agencies in the country working on use of force. Because use of force cases often garner public attention, Tonya frequently served as a spokesperson for the OIPM on local and national media outlets.

In addition to Tonya's use of force work at OIPM, she also served on the office's management team alongside the Police Monitor and Deputy Monitor to manage all office operations and strategic planning and represent the office at high level meetings with New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), City officials, the Consent Decree Monitors, and national police oversight partners. Tonya also supervised the New Orleans Community-Police Mediation Program. Because of her passion for community outreach and advocacy, Tonya also took on the role of recruiting and supervising a Public Allies Fellow who is primarily working with a group called Families Overcoming Injustice (FOI). This group is made up of loved ones who have had a family member killed by the New Orleans Police Department. FOI started meeting many years ago as a support group for one another. However, over time they learned that they shared many of the same concerns about the investigation of their loved one's cases. With Tonya's support the group chose a name for itself, developed goals, started having public events and built some infrastructure that is helping the group reach its desired goals and have the impact they want in the City of New Orleans. The group also moved from being almost solely a support mechanism to making policy changes within the NOPD in the form of "*A Family Bill of Rights*".

Before joining OIPM, Tonya's work in the area of policing encompassed working with groups at all levels of government to develop strategies to offset brutality in communities, document human rights abuses, and work with police agencies on the development of community policing standards. Tonya also assisted some of these same groups in addressing issues internationally to independent monitoring bodies, like the United Nations. Tonya also developed partnerships with national police organizations to review responses to police brutality and inadequate responses from internal affairs departments. Working with groups like these was important to understanding police culture and ensuring that there was interest and cooperation from police departments when recommendations were being put forward.

In addition to police accountability and oversight work, Tonya has also spent many years as an organizer and advocate for policy changes and reform regarding issues impacting the criminal justice system, locally, nationally and internationally. Some of those issues include indigent defense, juvenile justice, human rights education, rights of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, women and girls.

Tonya has also had a long career as a public defender in various offices across the country. Those offices include, (1) the Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases in Texas, (2) The Public Defender's Office in Baltimore, Maryland and (3) the Orleans Public Defender's office in New Orleans, Louisiana. Tonya has also been in leadership in most of the public defender offices where she has worked. In Maryland, Tonya served as the Circuit Court Chief in Baltimore City and had responsibility for approximately 70 staff which included attorneys, paralegals, legal secretaries, investigators, social workers and intake workers. Tonya was also a Supervising Attorney at the New Orleans Public Defender's Office.

Tonya's visionary work and expertise has taken her around the world as a lecturer and trainer. She is a graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law.