

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 25, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Office of Economic Development – New Interim Director**

As of September 22, Courtney Pogue resigned as the Director of Economic Development. Courtney started with the City back in 2017 with over 20 years' experience as an economic development practitioner. Courtney's largest contributions included attracting Uber to Dallas for their largest administrative building outside of San Francisco, securing Nokia's North American HQ move to Dallas, and supported the redevelopment efforts for Redbird Mall in southern Dallas. We wish Courtney the best as he will be returning to the private sector as a commercial real estate professional and economic development consultant.

In the Interim, we will be appointing Robin Bentley as the new Director of Economic Development effective October 1. Robin currently serves as Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Development. She has worked in that capacity for three years and prior to that worked as an Assistant City Attorney for four years. As an Assistant City Attorney Robin served as the deputy section head of the Economic and Community Development division. She provided legal counsel to the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization, the Office of Fair Housing and Human Rights, and the Office of Economic Development.

In the Office of Economic Development Robin led the business development team. She has overseen impactful developments such as the relocation of the Nokia headquarters to Cypress Waters, the location of Kroger's robotic grocery distribution center in the Inland Port, and the selection of Deep Ellum for Uber Technologies' new corporate office, the last of which was a finalist for Business Facilities Magazine's 2019 Economic Development Deal of the Year.

Robin has more than 15 years of experience in real estate finance and community development. She has expertise in negotiating and closing complex development transactions utilizing local, state, and federal funding sources and incentive programs. Robin is a certified Housing Development Finance Professional and a certified Economic Development Finance Professional. She is a graduate of Baylor University and the University of Texas School of Law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.C. Broadnax'.

T.C. Broadnax  
City Manager

c: Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizzor 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  
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors