

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 13, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Taking Care of Business – December 12, 2019**

## Updated Items

### [Encampment Resolution Schedule – December 10, 2019 & December 17, 2019](#)

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

December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	December 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1800 South Boulevard (District 7)</li><li>• 2300 Coombs Street (District 7)</li><li>• 2600 Hickory Street (District 7)</li><li>• 2929 Hickory Street (District 7)</li><li>• 1700 Chestnut Street (District 7)</li><li>• 600 South Saint Augustine Drive (District 5)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forest Lane and TI Boulevard (District 10)</li><li>• North Central Expressway Southbound and Forest Lane (District 11)</li><li>• 4320 Dallas Fort Worth Service-road Eastbound (Council District 6)</li><li>• West Mockingbird Lane and North Stemmons Freeway (District 6)</li><li>• 8964 Lyndon B Johnson Service-road East-bound (District 10)</li></ul>

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 Monica Hardman, Director of Office of Homeless Solutions.

## New Updates

### [Foundation Fresh Market Café Grand Opening](#)

Please join us for the grand opening of Foundation Fresh Market Café Monday, December 16, 2019 at 9 a.m. The café is located on the first floor by the blue elevators and will offer fresh, local foods and beverages for breakfast and lunch. Featured items will include cold pressed juices, grab and go meals, and snacks. Hours of operation will be 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. We look forward to seeing you on Monday! For more information, please contact Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff.

### [Dallas is Texas' First Certified Welcoming City](#)

Dallas is the first city in Texas to earn the status of Certified Welcoming in recognition of inclusiveness and integration of immigrants. The Office of Welcoming Communities and

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Immigrant Affairs successfully completed a rigorous certification process through Welcoming America, a non-partisan, national non-profit organization. Welcoming America evaluated local efforts to establish an inclusive community through government leadership, civic engagement, equitable access, education, economic development and safe, healthy and connected communities. The certification acknowledges the work the City has done, as enumerated in the strategic welcoming plan adopted by the City Council in October 2018, to become a model city for being inclusive and promoting the engagement of immigrants and refugees. Should you have any questions please contact Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion.

### [Food Idea Innovation Challenge Announces Seven Semi-Finalists:](#)

The City received overwhelming response from its first idea innovation challenge focused on increasing access to local, nutritious and affordable food options for all Dallas residents. The *Food Idea Innovation Challenge* gave Dallas residents the opportunity to submit ideas and solutions on how the City can work towards solving food inequities in their communities. Nearly 700 community members participated in the Challenge which closed on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Seven ideas have been advanced to the next stage: 1) convert portions of city parks into food forests; 2) refrigerated pods where you could stop by on your commute to pick up preordered grocery or meals; 3) a supply kit to start a garden at a school, removing a hurdle that a school could face for gardens; 4) a mobile grocery model to sell surplus food in food desert areas using SNAP benefits; 5) a cloud-based inventory system to allow households to access a food pantry inventory online; 6) a co-op and set of entrepreneurial toolkits to source, provide, and distribute local food; and 7) a destination-venue grocery and commercial kitchen as a community anchor.

These ideas are now being developed into proposals using design team volunteers from local non-profits and other organizations. The City, in partnership with Communities Foundation of Texas, will review the full proposals in the spring for possible funding for pilots. We will update the City Council during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020! Should you have any questions, please contact Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer.

### [DAS has its Best November](#)

Dallas Animal Services experienced their most successful November in history with the highest adoption numbers on record for this time of the year and the lowest euthanasia numbers of any month in DAS' history. Capping off the successful month was the outstanding "Adopt Don't Shop" adoption promotion that ran Black Friday through Cyber Monday. These four days alone saw 391 adoptions and 62 pre-adoptions! The November live release rate for 2019 is 92.5% which is over a 14% increase from the previous year and the highest live release rate in DAS history. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager, and Ed Jamison, Director of Dallas Animal Services.

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### [The City's Bureau of Vital Statistics Received an Award](#)

The City's Vital Statistics team has been awarded the 2019 Exemplary Five Star Service Award by the State of Texas Vital Statistics Unit. This award acknowledges Vital Statistics Partners who understand the importance of vital statistics and its impact on the citizens of Texas. In order to receive the award, the Vital Statistics division met several criteria including a registration rate of 100% (the percentage of all births and deaths in our registration district within one business day or less), a search to print ratio of at least 75%, participation in the annual conference and a low-risk score in the self-assessment. The team had 32,955 registrations total during the evaluation period (January through September). This is the second year in a row for the team to win a Five Star Service Award, and the first time to win the Exemplary award, after not having achieved the status in about a decade. The City of Dallas Vital Statistics division is one of only 96 vital statistics offices to win this award, out of a total of 472 local registrars in Texas. Should you have any questions, please contact Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager, and Jessica Galeshaw, Director of the Office of Community Care.

### [Flag Room Monitor Upgrade](#)

Public Affairs and Outreach (PAO) will install a new monitor display in the Flag Room between December 17-20. This monitor will replace the 55" monitor currently in the room. Infrastructure work to prepare for the installation will take place after hours to avoid any noise disruptions during City business hours. Replacing the monitor will greatly improve viewing of presentations and overflow satellite council meeting viewing. In addition to utilizing this new monitor for news conferences and events that take place in the room, PAO plans to also display announcements and City information on this monitor when the room is not in use. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gwen Schuler, Director of Public Affairs and Outreach.

### [Final Day of HIPP Registration is this Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>](#)

On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Housing Department's "Get Help With HIPP" at the MLK Community Center saw over 100 residents and assisted with 46 applications for the HIPP program. We are very pleased to announce we have over 700 applications submitted and over 300 fully completed applications. Reminder, HIPP closes on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage residents to submit those applications before the deadline. Click on the link below for more information. <https://dallascityhall.com/departments/housing-neighborhood-revitalization/Pages/Repair-Programs.aspx>. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact David Noguera, Director of Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization.

### [DWU Billing System Restored](#)

The Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) billing system has experienced technical difficulties since Wednesday, December 4, 2019. The system is now fully restored and has been available to customers since 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 9, 2019. Informational messages are updated on the City of Dallas website homepage, the [dallascitynews.net](http://dallascitynews.net), and the DWU webpage, alerting customers that the system is now available for payments. DWU will not disconnect water service or charge late fees to affected customers. Affected

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customers will have enough time to make their payments and/or make payment arrangements. Should you require additional information, please contact Terry Lowery, Director, Dallas Water Utilities.

### [Dallas Storm Response Thank You Video](#)

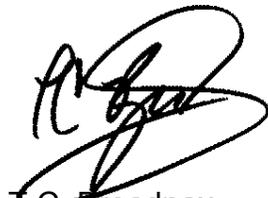
As you know, on October 20<sup>th</sup> the City of Dallas was impacted by multiple tornadoes, causing destruction across 15 miles through the heart of North Dallas, including significant damage to a total of 905 residential, government and business infrastructures. Dallas first responders worked countless hours to ensure residents were safe. Please view the Dallas Storm Response “Thank You” video [here](#). This video was prepared by Jose Marroquin, the Mayor and City Council Office SMU intern. For more information, please contact Carrie Prysock, Director of the Mayor and City Council Office.

### [Media Inquiries](#)

As of December 9, 2019, the City has received media requests from various news outlets regarding the following topics:

- Past fire calls at Sable Ridge Condos
- DWU unplanned outage
- Wild hog sighting
- DFR Member Recognized for Saving the Life of Burn Victim
- DFR Talks Christmas Fire Safety
- Nearly 100 Displaced After Fire Tears Through Dallas Condominiums
- Fire Displaces 30 From Northwest Dallas Townhomes

Please see the attached document compiling information provided to the media outlets for the December 2<sup>nd</sup> – December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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  
Billerae 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 Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer  
M. Elizabeth Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors

**Public Affairs & Outreach**  
**Media Requests**  
**December 2 – December 9**

**Date Submitted:** 12/4/2019

**Topic:** Possible wild hog sighting

**Inquiry:** Cynthia Cano with Univision 23 inquired about a possible wild hog sighting in west Dallas and wanted to know recommendations to residents who may see dangerous animals. Parks and Recreation did not have confirmed sightings of a wild hog and the following was released: At this time, there is no confirmed sighting of a wild hog. If residents encounter an animal they believe is dangerous it is encouraged they stay away from the animal and report the sighting to 3-1-1 or 9-1-1, using their best judgement of how dangerous the situation may be. If you are interested in learning more, I can set you up with a call with Park and Rec's Urban Biologist. The biologist instituted a feral hog program a couple of years ago when Parks identified a need to keep hogs away from public vegetation and City facilities.

**Submitted By:** Roxana Rubio (Park and Recreation)

**Media Entity:** Cynthia Cano (Univision 23)

**Date Submitted:** 12/4/2019

**Topic:** Past fire calls for Sable Ridge Condos

**Inquiry:** Meredith Yeomans with NBC 5 inquired about past fire calls at 6088, 6018 and 6108 Adams Rd. (Sable Ridge Condominiums). We provided her with the following information: From 1/1/2018 to present, we have records of the following calls: January 25, 2018: 4-Alarm Structure Fire, Cause Undetermined March 6, 2019: 1-Alarm Structure Fire, Accidental Cause from unattended cooking November 4, 2019: Reported Fire, Burned Food was out upon arrival December 4, 2019: 4-Alarm Structure Fire, Cause Undetermined

**Submitted By:** Roxana Rubio (Dallas Fire-Rescue)

**Media Entity:** Meredith Yeomans (NBC 5)

**Date Submitted:** 12/6/2019

**Topic:** DWU Unplanned Outage

**Inquiry:** Robbie Hoy with CBS 11 inquired about the unplanned SAP outage that affected DWU's online and telephonic payment systems. The City provided him with information about alternative payment options.

**Submitted By:** Nichelle Sullivan (Dallas Water Utilities)

**Media Entity:** Robbie Hoy (CBS 11)

**Date Submitted:** 12/6/2019

**Topic:** Sidewalk Inquiry

**Inquiry:** Shawn Shinneman with D Magazine asked which entity controlled the sidewalk areas underneath railroad tracks along Beckley Avenue after publishing an article about a railway bridge in the area. The city provided the following response: The West Dallas Gateway project, a 2012 bond program project, is currently in the design phase. The design includes provisions for a shared-use pathway along Beckley Avenue at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossing. Until the project is constructed, signage will be posted informing pedestrians that the sidewalk is closed at the underpass. The UPRR owns the right-of-way where their facility crosses Beckley Avenue; there is forty-foot roadway easement and five-foot sidewalk easement (west side) where the UPRR crosses Beckley Avenue, however, the city still requires UPRR approval to do any work within the easement.

**Submitted By:** Nichelle Sullivan (Department of Public Works)

**Media Entity:** Shawn Shinneman (D Magazine)

Dallas Fire-Rescue Department  
Media Requests: December 2<sup>nd</sup> – December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Sent the following information to all local media outlets; resulting in positive media coverage at the following links:

**NBC5:**

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Dallas-Firefighter-Recognized-for-Saving-Woman-Who-Was-Set-on-Fire-by-Ex-Boyfriend-565732651.html>

**CBS11:**

<https://dfw.cbslocal.com/2019/12/02/burn-victim-thanks-dallas-firefighter-saved-life/>

**WBAP:**

<http://www.wbap.com/2019/12/02/dallas-firefighter-honored-for-saving-womans-life/>

**Dallas Morning News:**

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2019/12/03/domestic-violence-victim-calls-dallas-firefighter-an-angel-after-ex-set-her-on-fire-last-year/>

## **DFR Member To Be Recognized for Saving the Life of Burn Victim**

**What:** Departmental recognition of DFR's, Pete Hartnett (and the crew staffing Engine 28)

**When:** Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Dallas Fire Station 37 (6742 Greenville Avenue)

**Details:** Dallas Fire-Rescue will be formally recognizing Firefighter, Peter "Pete" Hartnett, and the crew riding DFR Engine 28, for his life-saving actions on the morning of Monday, May 21, 2018, while responding to an "Aggravated Assault" call. Upon arrival, Engine 28 found a woman, who had been doused with kerosene and set on fire, rolling on the ground. Hartnett immediately jumped off the engine, while it was still in motion, and wrapped his bunker coat around the woman to put the flames out. Despite her level of anguish, the victim was able to tell firefighters the man standing next to them, who was originally thought to be someone who was trying to help, was actually the perpetrator. The man ran to his vehicle to flee the scene, but Hartnett chased him down and opened his door to pull him out. The man sped off towards the gate, with Hartnett in tow, and was able to make his escape after Hartnett was no longer able to hold on and fell to the ground. Though the assailant was later apprehended, and recently (in September) sentenced to life in prison, DFR immediately shifted their attention back to the victim; who was in critical

condition and burned over 75% of her body. She was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital and ended up, after overcoming insurmountable odds, surviving.

A more detailed account of the victim's story can be found in an article published in the Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, edition of the Dallas Morning News, at <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/courts/2019/10/26/a-year-after-her-ex-set-her-on-fire-domestic-violence-victim-starting-over-again/>

**Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Univision 23 (Laura Cruces)** - We want do to a story with safety tips for Christmas, I know that you have a person that speaks Spanish, and we want to do like a show and tell....(trees, heater)

Maybe you have something in the station or maybe on a training center.

Please me know if she is available.

**City Response** – Set up a Spanish interview with Senior Fire Prevention Officer, Daisy Castaneda; which aired that evening (link unavailable).

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>: All Local Media Outlets** – Can we have more information on an apartment fire on Abrams Road.

**City Response** - On Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at [12:55](#) a.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue units were dispatched to a 911 call for a structure fire at the Sable Ridge Condominiums, located at 6108 Abrams Road, near the intersection of Northwest Highway.

When firefighters arrived at the three-story residential structure, they observed smoke and fire coming from the first and second floors of the building. Thankfully, residents had self-evacuated by the time first responders arrived, so attention could be focused mostly on suppression efforts. However, upon making initial entry, attack teams discovered that the fire had already made it's way into the floor spaces, and was a lot more advanced than originally thought.

Command called for a second, third and an eventual fourth alarm response. During this process, efforts shifted from an offensive to a defensive posture, as flames began to show through the roof of the structure, with approximately 80 - 90 firefighters using master streams and ladder pipes to pour water on the building.

A total of 30 condominiums were in the building, and though most of them were uninhabitable after having sustained varying degrees of fire, smoke and/or water damage, the property was deemed a collapse hazard and torn down as of 10:00 a.m. Ninety residents were displaced as a result, but the American Red Cross was called out to assist.

There were no injuries reported, and the cause of the fire is undetermined.

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>: All Local Media Outlets** – Can you tell us what the cause of the fire at the Sable Ridge Condominiums, back in 2018, was determined to be?

**City Response** – The fires at the Sable Ridge Condominiums that took place this morning as well as in January of 2018 are undetermined.

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>: NBC 5 (unknown reporter) and CBS 11 (Andrea Lucia)** - Is it possible to get a list of previous fires at 6108 Abrams? A lot of people here at Sable Ridge are talking about previous fires in different buildings here.

**City Response** – After doing a quick search, and consulting with the Fire Investigation Bureau, I compiled the following list dating back to 1/1/2018:

**January 25, 2018**: 4-Alarm Structure Fire, Cause Undetermined

**March 6, 2019**: 1-Alarm Structure Fire, Accidental Cause from unattended cooking

**November 4, 2019**: Reported Fire, Burned Food was already extinguished upon arrival

**December 4, 2019**: 4-Alarm Structure Fire, Cause Undetermined

**Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>: All Local Media Outlets** – Can we have more information on an apartment fire DFR responded to on Chapel Creek Drive?

**City Response** - On Thursday, December 5th, at [12:14](#) a.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue units were dispatched to a 911 call for a structure fire at the Chase Place Apartments, located at 9825 Webb Chapel Road, in Northwest Dallas.

When firefighters arrived at the two-story townhome complex, they observed flames coming from the roof on the south end of the building. They deployed hand lines, initiated an offensive fire attack and found that the flames were primarily in the attic space and had begun to spread laterally toward the opposite end of the building.

Using strategic positioning and suppression tactics, the quick actions of first responders allowed for an effective cut-off of the fire spread just passed a firewall; saving roughly half of the 9-townhome building.

According to investigators, residents were asleep when the fire began, but a passerby saw the flames and took it upon himself to get out of his car and begin knocking on doors to warn residents. As a result, everyone was evacuated by the time first responders arrived; allowing them to focus their attention primarily on suppression efforts.

There were no injuries reported as a result of the fire, but the American Red Cross was dispatched to the scene to assist approximately 30 displaced residents. Though firefighters were exemplary in saving what they could, the part of the building that was

damaged suffered a roof collapse; leaving at least 4 units with varying degrees of smoke, water and/or fire damage.

Investigators believe the fire originated in the attic space, but the exact cause is undetermined.