

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 1, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update on OHS Community Engagement and Reset Strategy for Bond Implementation**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide City Council an update on the City's public education, outreach and engagement efforts on homelessness in Dallas, existing services portfolio, and the reset strategy for the \$20M Bond Program.

The intent of the outreach and engagement process is to 1) receive feedback and guidance from City Council related to current and future City investment priorities, 2) provide information to the public on the priorities of the City and ongoing funding support for the homeless response system, 3) engage the community on innovation and collaboration opportunities to implement sustainable solutions for our residents who experience homelessness and 4) utilize feedback from City Council and residents to inform the revised Request For Proposal for the Bond Program. Outreach and engagement will be City-wide in that staff will work to ensure all have equal opportunity to participate and provide input on addressing homelessness in Dallas. Both traditional and non-traditional methods of outreach will be applied to include listening sessions, virtual townhalls, surveys, brainstorming and visioning exercises.

In order to operationalize this detailed and strategic process, OHS staff have partnered with a team from Texas Christian University's Department of Social Work, through an informal bid process, to facilitate and synthesize the information received from the outreach effort. During the months of November and December, staff and TCU will meet with each member of the City Council and the Citizens Homelessness Commission (CHC) to gather conceptual information, specific to their council district, that will serve as a foundation for designing the outreach process. A briefing on the proposed outreach design will then be provided at the CHC and Housing & Homelessness Solutions City Council Committee in January 2020. If approved, staff will launch the education and outreach effort no later than March 2020.

Once the public education effort is complete, staff will then work with the departments of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization and Economic Development to prepare a draft RFP to be shared with the CHC, and Housing and Homelessness Solutions City Council Committee. Utilizing an existing contract for professional services through these departments, staff will ensure that the RFP is prepared with an emphasis on innovation and joint venture approaches, is inclusive of mixed uses and mixed income and compatibility with adjacent and surrounding zoning and/or located within or near areas that are currently identified as high-opportunity, eligible for Neighborhood Empowerment Zones or other related incentives offered by the City.

The City is mindful that housing stability is a critical issue for our residents at all levels of the socioeconomic ladder in our community and the establishment of coordinated services paired with sustainable and equitable housing solutions are key to building healthy communities. It is our intent to better partner with our communities in problem-solving efforts that reflect the interests of the community, are responsive to the needs and concerns of our residents and leverage existing

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and new partnerships with the business and philanthropic community who so desire to be a part of the solution.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information provided in the memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager or Monica Hardman, Director of the Office of Homeless Solutions.



T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
City Manager

c: Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Mark Swann, City Auditor
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Directors and Assistant Directors