

Memorandum



DATE October 19, 2018

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

SUBJECT **Community Courts Update**

On Monday, October 22, 2018, you will be briefed by Interim City Attorney, Chris Caso, and Community Courts Section Head Dianne Gibson regarding community courts. The presentation will be an overview of the program, performance, funding, Vickery Meadow, Homeless Court and Youth Commission. The goal of the presentation is to provide Council with an overview of programs that reduce barriers that make it more difficult for an individual to address their underlying issues that lead to criminogenic behaviors through a concentrated effort of collaboration with City departments, local non-profits, and other governmental entities.

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



Jon Fortune
Assistant City Manager

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (I)
Carol A. Smith, City Auditor (I)
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
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager & Chief Resilience Officer
Directors and Assistant Directors

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CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 19, 2018

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

SUBJECT **Vickery Meadow Community Center**

Project Description: The intent of the scope of work is for the Vickery Meadow Community Center to offer a variety of ‘one-stop’ social services to neighborhood residents through various third-party providers, who will occupy the front half of the existing building facing Blackwell St., as lease tenants. Several modest storefront offices are envisioned, along with a shared multi-purpose space in the apparatus bay of the former fire station, which could be used for larger program events.

The primary occupant of this re-purposed facility will be the Northeast Community Court, currently located at 9451 LBJ Freeway, Suite 130 Dallas, TX 75243. The Court through its supporting staff from the City Attorney’s Office and Code Compliance Department, provide neighborhood-focused adjudication of Class C misdemeanor, ‘quality of life’ citations. Community Service programs managed through offices of the Court are the preferred means to satisfy sentences issued by the judge. The goal of these service programs is to foster social connections and improve sense of belonging for these individuals with their fellow residents of the larger neighborhood. To further this objective of providing beneficial service to residents of the Vickery Meadow neighborhood, a community garden has been proposed as a shared space to develop useful skills in urban agriculture while also providing instruction and access to healthy nutritional alternatives for those community members who choose freely to participate.

Design Services – Scope of Work: The design services outlined in this Request For Proposal (RFP) included the following components: engineering, architectural, and related professional services necessary

Proposed Construction Scope of Work: Rehabilitation construction work to adapt a 64-year old existing facility (approximately 6,400 sq. ft.) into office and classroom uses under current zoning and building codes, along with interior and exterior modifications required to achieve ADA compliance under current Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) and a proposed community garden. Design of interior lease spaces should incorporate a strategy of flexible use, allowing the service providers to offer a more dynamic range of programming, easily adapting their programs to various needs of the community.

Proposed Project Schedule:

- Jul - Oct 2018 Issue RFQ/RFP for engineering and architectural services
- Nov – 2018 City Council to award design services consultant contract
- Jun - 2019 Advertise ‘bid’ construction
- Sept 2019 Council award of construction contract

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SUBJECT Vickery Meadow Community Center

- May 2020 Substantial Completion and Certificate of Occupancy
- Jun 2020 Furniture delivery, Final Completion



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Community Courts Update

**Public Safety and Criminal
Justice Committee**

October 22, 2018

**Chris Caso
Interim City Attorney**

**Dianne Gibson
Community Courts Section Head**



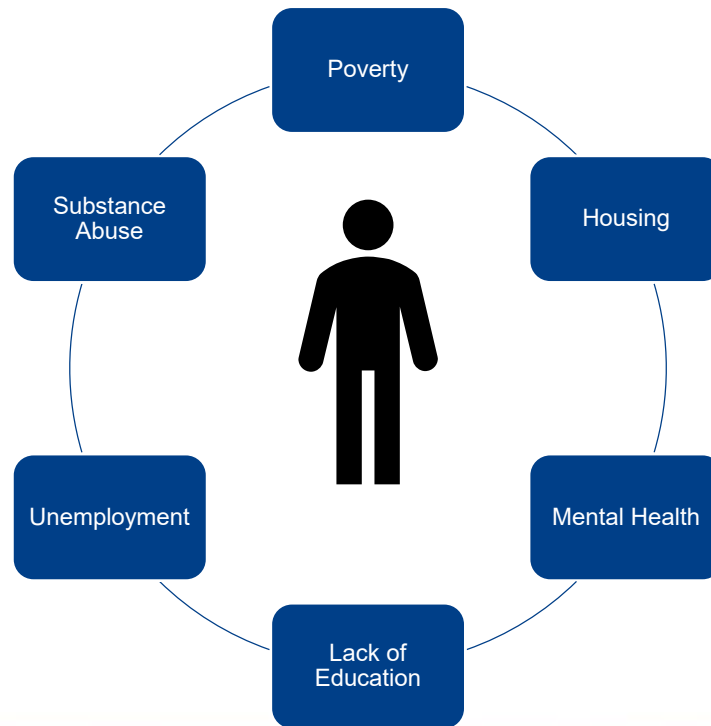
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview

- Program Overview
- Performance
- Funding
- Vickery Meadow
- Homeless Court
- Youth Commission
- Questions

Catalyst for Change

The Community Courts Program reduces barriers that make it more difficult for an individual to address their underlying issues that lead to criminogenic behaviors through a concentrated effort of collaboration with City departments, local non-profits, and other governmental entities.



An Effective Model that Works

- How does this work?
 - Creative problem-solving and community-focused approach
 - Strong collaborations and partnerships
 - Community engagement and restitution
 - Assessment-driven service plans are implemented
- Why does this work?
 - Reduced recidivism leads to more productive, contributing members of society
 - Community services leads to beautification of communities

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Performance

- **Rehabilitate.**

- Cases processed: 39,981

- **Restore.**

- Number of Community Service Hours: 16,683
 - Saves Dallas Tax payers \$173,002
- 359 Graduates

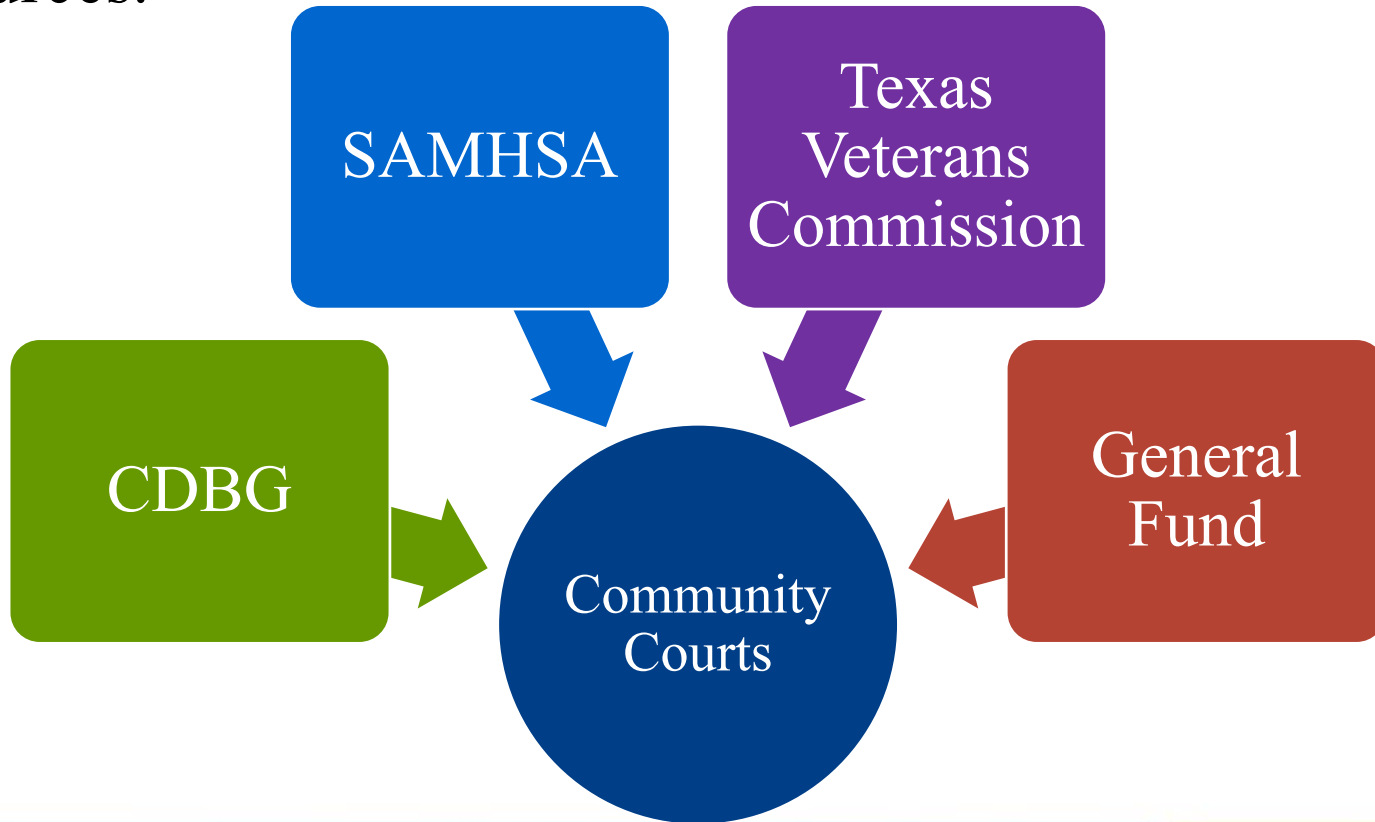
- **Dignity and Respect.**

- “They helped me the same day I came to them.”
- “I am living proof that there are better ways to help people than to put them in jail.”
- “I now have my license in A/C maintenance and repair and can make a living.”



Funding

The Community Courts program is funded through a variety of sources.



CDBG

- South Dallas, West Dallas, and South Oak Cliff are 100% funded through CDBG.
- Funding supports salary and operating costs for (7) full-time and (1) permanent part-time staff to manage the court: (3) Community Service Coordinators; (3) Social Service Coordinators; and (1) permanent part-time Work Crew Supervisor.
- Expenditures for security, clerks, bus passes, clothing, food, etc. are also utilized through this funding.
- FY19 - \$713,126 (CDBG funding)

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SAMHSA

- South Dallas Drug Court is 100% funded through SAMHSA.
- Funding supports salary and operating costs for two (2) full-time staff to manage the court: one (1) Social Worker and (1) Outreach Specialist.
- Expenditures for substance abuse and mental health treatment, food, clothing, incentives, bus passes, recovery housing, HIV/AIDS, healthcare, and childcare are utilized through this funding.
- \$1.73M effective October 1, 2018 – September 29, 2023 (SAMHSA funding)

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Texas Veterans Commission

- South Oak Cliff Veterans Treatment Court is 100% funded through the TVC.
- Funding supports salary and operating costs for (1) full-time staff to manage the court and (1) Social Worker and Outreach Specialist.
- Expenditures for substance abuse and mental health treatment for eligible Veterans is utilized through this funding.
- FY19 - \$75,000.00 (TVC funding)

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General Fund

- Northeast Community Court and Downtown “Night” Community Court are 100% funded through the General Fund.
- Funding supports salary and operating costs for eight (8) full-time staff to manage the court: (1) Section Head, (1) Deputy Section Head, (1) Assistant, (2) Prosecutors, (2) Social Workers, (1) Community Service Coordinator.

General Fund cont.

- Expenditures for substance abuse and mental health treatment, food, clothing, incentives, bus passes, recovery housing, HIV/AIDS, healthcare, and childcare are utilized through this funding.
- The General Fund also supports all members of the Community Courts team to work on those courts that are grant-funded.
- FY19 \$1.18M (General Fund)

Vickery Meadow Community Center Update

- The Vickery Meadow Community Center will offer a variety of ‘one-stop’ social services to neighborhood residents.
- The Northeast Community Court will move from its temporary location to this renovated facility.
- A community garden has been proposed to develop useful skills in urban agriculture while also providing instruction and access to healthy nutritional alternatives for Vickery Meadow residents and court participants.

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Vickery Meadow Community Center Update

Proposed Project Schedule:

- Jul - Oct 2018 Issue RFQ/RFP for engineering and architectural services
- Nov - 2018 City Council to award design services consultant contract- Item is tentatively schedule for award for design services at the 11/28/18 City Council meeting
- Jun - 2019 Advertise 'bid' construction
- Sept 2019 Council award of construction contract
- May 2020 Substantial Completion and Cert. of Occupancy
- Jun 2020 Furniture delivery, Final Completion

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Homeless Diversion Program

- A partnership with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, the court would assist homeless individuals facing certain Class A and B misdemeanors in getting those charges dismissed.
- The Community Courts Program focuses on the Class C misdemeanors.
- A Class C misdemeanor conviction could impair one's ability to rent a home, obtain a student loan, and have negative effect on future employment.

Youth Commission

- City Attorney's Office has had several meetings with the Youth Commission regarding a new program involving youth groups.
- This program will provide youth groups with the opportunity to receive funding for their youth projects while simultaneously beautifying their communities in the process.
- Additionally, the Youth Commission will get real-life experience by establishing the program parameters, authorizing funding, and monitoring the program's progress and success.

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QUESTIONS



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City of Dallas