

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 12, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **City of Dallas Office of Economic Development Named an Accredited Economic Development Organization**

Please join me in congratulating the Office of Economic Development, which last week was certified as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) by the International Economic Development Council. Dallas is one of only 66 organizations to have received the AEDO recognition, an elite and internationally recognized accreditation demonstrating high professionalism and technical expertise.

Background

Based in Washington, D.C., the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the largest membership association serving economic and community development professionals in the world, with over 5,000 members nationwide and abroad. IEDC is staffed by experts devoted to advancement of the profession of economic development.

The AEDO program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly held standards in the profession. To become an AEDO, an economic development organization undergoes a rigorous two-phase review process during which IEDC reviewers examine information about the structure, organization, policies, procedures, funding, projects, programs, and staff of the candidate economic development organization.

For the first phase, IEDC reviewed documentation submitted by the Office of Economic Development. Successful clearance of the document review phase indicates the organization is eligible to receive accreditation, and the candidate organization moves to the second phase, the site visit phase.

The Office of Economic Development's site visit phase was conducted over three days in December 2020, during which two independent IEDC reviewers toured city hall and conducted thirty-minute interviews with staff, elected officials, developers, and community leaders. The IEDC reviewers then made a recommendation to approve the accreditation, and a committee voted in favor of the approval.

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In addition to approval, the Office of Economic Development received very positive comments from the IEDC reviewers. One such comment stated, “The Review Team found strong support for the efforts of the Office of Economic Development, and in particular for the staff. Several comments were received that even throughout the change in the City’s executive leadership, the services and customer service received from Economic Development staff have been outstanding.”

Please join me in congratulating the Office of Economic Development on this most noteworthy achievement.



Dr. Eric Anthony Johnson
Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Revitalization

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
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
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors