

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 5, 2018

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Strategic Implementation and Accountability Plan for the Dallas Police Department's New Vice Unit**

The Dallas Police Department has spent the last several months working towards building a new Vice Unit. We are progressing towards full implementation. The command staff is in place and detective positions have been advertised for interested personnel to interview. It is anticipated that all new Vice Unit members will be in place and begin training by November 1, 2018.

We are moving forward in a thoughtful manner to ensure that proper written policies, procedures and internal accountability controls are in place to maintain the integrity of the Vice Unit and the Police Department. The Vice Unit will be responsible for investigation of obscenity laws and gambling. The Vice Unit is also responsible for investigating prostitution. The DPD has created a new holistic approach to tackling prostitution. It will be victim-centric and will focus on reducing prostitution through victim assistance and by working with Community Courts. We will also leverage relationships with private partnerships so that victims may have access to services. Incarceration is proven to be ineffective in the reduction of prostitution and will be utilized as a last resort.

The new Vice Unit will work diligently to ensure the safety of the citizens of Dallas and maintain the core values of Empathy, Ethics, Excellence, and Equity.

OVERVIEW:

The new Vice Unit Lieutenant is being tasked with implementation of the new Standard Operating Procedures for the Unit as well as overseeing training for new personnel.

New Sergeants have been selected and will oversee operations, undercover investigations, licensing, and audits.

- The licensing squad processes all applications received for dance and billiard halls as well as sexually oriented businesses. This licensing supervisor will be responsible for oversight of the processing and approval or denial of all applications and will serve as a key advisor on improvements to current ordinances governing these businesses as we look to improve overall customer service in this area.

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- The new organizational structure of the Vice Unit also includes a Sergeant who will serve as a compliance and audit supervisor. This Sergeant is responsible for continuous oversight of documents related to money, evidence, and compliance procedures in an effort to ensure accountability. This supervisor will verify critical paperwork and documentation as an internal control measure to maintain integrity of the unit.
- The Vice Units operations supervisor will be responsible for oversight of detectives tasked with investigating vice related offenses such as prostitution and gambling.

This new team of supervisors will begin conducting interviews of individuals that would like to serve as detectives in the Vice Unit.

HISTORY:

Chief Hall disbanded the previous Vice Unit after learning of numerous policy violations, discrepancies in accounting, inadequate processing of evidence, and a lack of accountability. In the absence of the Vice unit, gambling and prostitution enforcement was reassigned to Narcotics and Patrol Divisions. Human Trafficking investigations were reassigned to the High Risk Victims unit while the department completed investigations into the aforementioned violations.

During the course of the investigations, the department learned that the Houston Police Department, which had been identified as operating in best practices, was planning to host a Vice Detectives Training Course. In March of this year, a select number of undercover Narcotics officers were sent to Houston to attend this week-long training class on Vice related investigations, including prostitution and gambling. As a part of the training, officers received standard operating procedures to review and implement when standing up the new unit.

The Internal Affairs Division investigation of the Vice Unit identified occurrences in which policies and procedures had not been followed by individuals assigned to the Vice Unit. The internal affairs investigation is anticipated to be complete by November 1, 2018.

An internal audit team prepared a written summary of their findings and recommendations with changes needed to be implemented. An outside assessment of the unit was also conducted by No Limit Investigative and Security Services (NLISS). Considering the potential to re-establish the Vice Unit, NLISS recommended the DPD implement the changes outlined by the internal audit team as well as best practices of major cities across the United States.

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In alignment with best practices and recommendations from the outside transition assessment report, new Vice Detectives will not work for a period of greater than five years in this assignment and will be rotated out prior to five years. It is anticipated that the new Vice Unit will ultimately consist of two enforcement squads, each led by a Sergeant, a licensing squad, led by a Sergeant, and a compliance and internal control Sergeant who all report to the Vice Unit Lieutenant. Although the new Vice unit will have jurisdiction throughout the City, each of the seven patrol divisions will also have responsibility to enforce vice related violations, as well as run enforcement operations in their area of command. There will be communication and deconfliction between the Vice unit and all patrol divisions to ensure citizen complaints and crime trends are addressed.



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