

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 16, 2021

TO Members of the Dallas City Council

SUBJECT Dallas City Council Committee priorities for 2022

Dear Colleagues:

As promised during my annual State of the City Address, I am hereby submitting to you all the attached list of my top policy priorities for the year ahead for each standing committee of the Dallas City Council.

If we focus on these committee priorities, which were developed with feedback from committee chairs, we will make our city stronger, safer, healthier, more vibrant, and more equitable.

It is certainly my hope and expectation that we will achieve all 48 of these priorities — each committee has been given six directives — during the year ahead. Our committee chairs should lead on these issues, partner with the mayor's office to ensure progress, and conduct appropriate oversight as necessary.

However, this list is also not meant to be all-inclusive or totally restrictive. It is important to me that our committee chairs — whom I selected because of their experience and leadership capabilities — remain nimble when it comes to the needs of our residents and that they work with me on the most effective ways to address other issues as they arise.

In addition, I request that our chairs work with my office to sort out any disputes over committees' jurisdictions. We must ensure we have the most efficient processes possible for considering and vetting policy ideas.

Let's work together to ensure our dynamic and growing city reaches its full potential by getting back to basics at City Hall and laying the groundwork to build for our future.

Thank you for your attention to these issues and for your hard work in our first six months together. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and that you stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric Johnson  
Mayor

Cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Mark Swann, City Auditor

# Dallas City Council Committee Priorities for 2022

## **Economic Development Committee**

**Chair:** Tennell Atkins

1. Implementing the comprehensive economic development policy, especially the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and ensuring the success of the Economic Development Corporation.
2. Reviewing data and feedback to make recommendations that will make Dallas the best city in the region with which to do business.
3. Working to enhance dense, mixed-use economic development efforts in the city's Central Business District, including by developing plans for the development of city-owned land around the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.
4. Overseeing the completion and implementation of the Hensley Field master plan.
5. Creating new strategies to attract businesses to Dallas and support the expansion of the city's existing businesses, thereby growing the city's property tax base and making the city more competitive economically.
6. Assessing the need for and viability of a responsible banking ordinance for the city of Dallas and encouraging practices that extend economic vitality to southern Dallas.

## **Environment & Sustainability Committee**

**Chair:** Paula Blackmon

1. Reviewing our city codes, policies, and procedures that allowed for environmental threats such as Lane Plating, "Shingle Mountain," and others to occur, and recommending to the Dallas City Council new codes, policies, and procedures — including zoning changes — to prevent such occurrences in the future.
2. Reforming the bulk-and-brush trash pickup program to ensure maximum efficiency and proper use.
3. Continuing to implement the Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and effectuating resilience strategies contained therein, such as the creation of green roofs and a solar program.
4. Exploring new, equitable policies to address environmental concerns in neighborhoods, including restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers and a notification process regarding plans to build concrete batch plants.
5. Ensuring that progress continues on the remediation of Hensley Field.
6. Developing a plan to dredge White Rock Lake.

## **Government Performance & Financial Management Committee**

**Chair:** Cara Mendelsohn

1. Developing and recommending a plan to meaningfully reduce the property tax rate to make Dallas more competitive with surrounding cities.
2. Monitoring and assessing progress on the city manager's plan to improve the city's permitting processes.
3. Creating a formal sunset review process of city departments, offices, and programs to help eliminate waste, redundancies, and inefficiencies in city government.
4. Recommending strategies to ensure the city's technology and data systems and processes are appropriately modernized, efficient, and secure.
5. Reviewing and making recommendations to improve the process for evaluating the performance of City Council-appointed officials that incorporates more objective criteria and performance metrics.
6. Reviewing our RFP, procurement, budgeting, data analysis, and contract monitoring processes to reflect best practices.

# Dallas City Council Committee Priorities for 2022

## Housing & Homelessness Solutions Committee

**Chair:** Casey Thomas

1. Advocating for Dallas County to help address the underlying health conditions of mental illness and drug addiction that contribute to homelessness, incarceration, and poverty.
2. Overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the Dallas Real-Time Rapid Rehousing Strategy, as well as identifying the causes of increased rates of homelessness in our city and proposing solutions to the Dallas City Council to reverse this trend.
3. Overseeing the implementation of policies emanating from the racial equity audit of the Comprehensive Housing Policy.
4. Overseeing the implementation of, and securing financing for, the City of Dallas' Comprehensive Housing Policy, with particular attention to ensuring that residents are not involuntarily displaced due to gentrification.
5. Recommending any changes to the Comprehensive Housing Policy to ensure the development of affordable housing in Dallas.
6. Assessing the findings of the SPARC report and recommend ways to combat the extreme racial disparities in homelessness.

## Public Safety Committee

**Chair:** Adam McGough

1. Supporting proper implementation and providing oversight of all public safety strategies, including the violent crime reduction plan, the RIGHT Care program, 911 staffing improvements, Dallas police officer hiring, the KPMG civilianization study, and the programs recommended by the Mayor's Task Force on Safe Communities.
2. Ensuring that the Dallas Police Department receives the best available training and overseeing the creation of a new police training academy in partnership with UNT-Dallas.
3. Encouraging programs and policies that improve community-police relations.
4. Monitoring accountability related to internal investigations conducted by Dallas Fire-Rescue and the Dallas Police Department.
5. Providing oversight of Dallas Fire-Rescue's efforts to modernize its operations and training amid a changing urban environment and an increased demand for emergency medical services.
6. Assessing and making recommendations as to the needs for facilities, updated technology, and equipment for the Dallas Police Department and Dallas Fire-Rescue.

## Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture Committee

**Chair:** Adam Bazaldua

1. Through the "Dallas Is For Families" initiative, reviewing city programs, park and recreation offerings, and amenities to ensure the city is catering its services for both families with children and seniors.
2. Developing sensible regulations for short-term rental properties in Dallas.
3. Actively assessing the cultural offerings of both peer and nearby cities to ensure our competitiveness in these regards.
4. Producing recommendations to promote and enhance the city's live music, hospitality, nightlife, art, and dining scenes.
5. Developing a plan to expand dining options and encourage and support safe mobile food options.
6. Providing recommendations and oversight to ensure the implementation of the Fair Park master plan.

# Dallas City Council Committee Priorities for 2022

## Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

**Chair:** Omar Narvaez

1. Overseeing and directing plans to improve the conditions of streets, traffic signals, sidewalks, bike lanes, and other infrastructure through the general fund, bond funds, and other revenue sources, such as federal infrastructure legislation.
2. Guiding and shaping the process to determine the future of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center and surrounding area as it pertains to transportation infrastructure.
3. Implementing and prioritizing the implementation of the Vision Zero plan and improving mobility and safety for users of all modes of transportation, including by examining possible street closures, developing a micro-mobility program, and implementing road diets and complete streets to improve walkability in the city.
4. Reviewing Dallas Area Rapid Transit's bus service within the City of Dallas to ensure it meets the city's current and future workforce and quality-of-life needs.
5. Monitoring and assessing the needs of the city's airports, water infrastructure, and flood control systems to ensure their viability and safety.
6. Overseeing public-private partnerships to expand digital infrastructure for residents throughout Dallas, ensuring every family has access to high-speed internet service.

## Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee

**Chair:** Jaynie Schultz

1. Working with the mayor's workforce czar to implement recommendations from *Upskilling Dallas: How to Modernize the City's Workforce for the Jobs of Tomorrow* and other upskilling efforts, including at the city's new Small Business Center.
2. Overseeing coordination with Dallas ISD to ensure city programming and Social and Emotional Learning programs, as recommended by the Mayor's Task Force on Safe Communities, are leveraged for the greatest impact.
3. Overseeing the development and implementation of the City of Dallas' Racial Equity Plan.
4. Working with early childhood education and childcare partners and providers to make sure families in Dallas have access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education and childcare options.
5. Reviewing the city's fine-and-fee structures to ensure residents are treated equitably by municipal courts.
6. Examining policies and procedures related to City of Dallas employees to ensure the city government is competitive as it relates to its culture and benefits and is in a position to attract the most talented and reliable workforce in the State of Texas.