

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 6, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Executive Management Team Appointments**

I am pleased to announce the permanent appointment of **Julia Ryan** as the Director of Planning and Urban Design; and the permanent appointment of **MeLissa Webber** as Director of Dallas Animal Services, effective January 12, 2022.

**Julia Ryan** has served as the Interim Director of Planning and Urban Design since July 2021. Before serving in that role, Julia served as Assistant Director of Planning and Urban Design since May 2021. Prior to serving as Assistant Director of Planning and Urban Design, Julia served as Transportation Manager as well as a Senior Planner for the City of Fort Worth. Over her thirteen year Further, she served as the Complete Streets Program Manager in the Transportation and Public Works Department; a position that manages the process improvements to integrate context-based designs into transportation projects.

Julia has written and implemented processes improvements for integrating a data driven land use approach to street design that will save Fort Worth millions in property taxes and reduced maintenance requirements as Fort Worth continues to develop its transportation network. This work required breaking silos, leading interdepartmental teams, and gaining political support for recommended policies. Julia has a Bachelor of Arts in political science and environmental studies from Iowa State University and a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from Eastern Michigan University.

**MeLissa Webber** has served as the Interim Director of Dallas Animal Services (DAS) since March 2021. Before serving in that role, MeLissa served as Assistant Director of DAS starting in February 2020. While serving as Interim Director, MeLissa has guided the department's COVID-19 response, including internal staff and resident safety plans and ensuring the continuance of all essential residential public safety and lifesaving services by implementing intuitive, low-cost technology services and pivoting DAS to a comprehensive, social services-inspired approach. Additionally, she helped further DAS' transparent data policies by overseeing the launch of a new website and the creation of FY22 open data portal sets and spearheaded the department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts.

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Prior to joining the City, McLissa had a reputation in the industry as a visionary leader due to her experience leading two of the country's largest municipal shelters. In these organizations, she created cultures of caring, accountability, public safety, and lifesaving. As the Assistant General Manager at Los Angeles Animal Services, one of the few shelters in the country with a larger intake than DAS, she oversaw lifesaving field and shelter operations for six large open admission shelters, servicing over 60,000 animals annually.

Her experience will ensure DAS' continued embrace of the City of Dallas' Values of Service - Empathy, Ethics, Equity, and Excellence for the residents, staff, and all other DAS stakeholders.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Please join me in congratulating these employees in their new roles!

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly.



T.C. Broadnax  
City Manager

c:	Chris Caso, City Attorney	Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
	Mark Swann, City Auditor	Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
	Biliera Johnson, City Secretary	Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
	Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge	M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
	Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager	M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
	Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager	Directors and Assistant Directors