

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 31, 2022

TO Adam McGough, Chairman, Dallas City Council Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT Mental health leave for firefighters

Dear Chairman McGough:

I am requesting that the Public Safety Committee review the merits of amending Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code ("Personnel Rules") to allow our firefighters who have experienced a traumatic event in the line of duty to take mental health leave.

Currently, the Dallas City Code only allows licensed peace officers to use mental health leave. But it is imperative that we consider the mental health needs of all of our first responders. Our firefighters often experience stressful and traumatic ordeals. Sometimes, they have even been involved in life-threatening encounters, such as active-shooter situations and dangerous fires. And like our police officers, Dallas firefighters interact regularly with people who are experiencing the worst moments of their lives.

We must treat the mental health of our first responders as a top priority. While this proposal and its impacts should be thoroughly vetted by the Public Safety Committee, I believe it is important to begin this discussion as soon as possible. I also trust that you will take this opportunity to begin a broader conversation about other ways to improve mental health among our police and firefighters.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know what we can do to assist you in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Johnson'.

Eric Johnson
Mayor

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