

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 17, 2022

TO Honorable Members of the Dallas City Council

SUBJECT Changes to Ad Hoc Committees

Dear Colleagues:

We have accomplished much together in the last eleven months, and I am proud of our focus on policies that can improve the lives of our mutual constituents. The people of Dallas have and will continue to benefit from the hard work you put in on your respective committees.

But as we move forward from the challenges of recent years and take on new issues, I am making three changes to our ad hoc committees.

First, I am hereby dissolving the **Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance**. I am grateful for the work of Chairman Casey Thomas and the committee members over the past two-plus years. The committee helped us establish policies and keep our policymakers informed during an unprecedented period of our city's history. As we emerge and recover from the pandemic, I believe that any outstanding business before the committee can and should be taken up by the appropriate standing committees of the Dallas City Council.

Second, I am hereby establishing the **Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Affairs** to help us handle internal processes and procedures here at Dallas City Hall. The committee is charged with the following matters:

1. Recommending changes to the Dallas City Council Rules of Procedure regarding:
 - a. Open microphone speakers and the rules of decorum;
 - b. Deadlines for pulling items from the Dallas City Council consent agenda without requiring a motion to separate; and
 - c. The length of terms and the process for selecting the Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem.
2. Evaluation of Dallas City Council-appointed officers and the codification of an annual review process for the aforementioned officers.
3. Establishing plans and agendas for future Dallas City Council retreats.
4. Other duties as assigned by the mayor.

The following City Councilmembers are assigned to the committee:

- Gay Willis (Chair)
- Adam McGough
- Jesse Moreno
- Jaynie Schultz
- Chad West

Finally, I am hereby establishing the **Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Sports Recruitment and Retention**.

The City of Dallas is a great sports city with amazing fans, and we are blessed to be home to the Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Stars franchises. However, both franchises' leases at the American Airlines Center end in 2031, and we should begin discussions soon to ensure they remain in the City of Dallas.

The City of Dallas has already lost out on too many professional sports-related economic development opportunities over the years. The *Dallas* Cowboys are based in the City of Frisco and play in the City of Arlington. FC Dallas plays in the City of Frisco. The Texas Rangers play in the City of Arlington in a brand-new stadium that should have been built in Downtown Dallas. The *Dallas* Wings also play in the City of Arlington. The Professional Golfers' Association of America no longer hosts any tournaments in the City of Dallas, as the AT&T Byron Nelson is now played in the City of McKinney.

The City of Dallas boasts incredible assets and presents amazing opportunities for any professional sports franchise. It is long past time for the City of Dallas to play to win these franchises and events. That means we must be more proactive, assertive, and strategic. And we must develop a game plan that enhances our competitiveness internationally, nationally, and within our own region, which is the fastest-growing major metropolitan area in the United States.

This new committee is charged with the following matters:

1. Assessing the economic, fiscal, and social impacts of existing professional sports franchises on the City of Dallas, including the Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Stars.
2. Assessing the economic, fiscal, and social impacts of professional sports franchises — including the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers, FC Dallas, and the Dallas Wings — on other North Texas cities, such as the City of Arlington, the City of Frisco, and the City of McKinney.
3. Developing a strategy to retain existing professional sports franchises in the City of Dallas.
4. Analyzing our city's competitive advantages for — as well as potential barriers to — attracting and retaining professional sports franchises and major sporting events.
5. Assessing the costs and benefits to the City of Dallas for hosting new professional sports franchises, such as a National Football League franchise, a Major League Baseball franchise, and a Women's National Basketball Association franchise.
6. Developing a strategy for attracting a new professional sports franchise — such as a National Football League franchise, a Major League Baseball franchise, a Major League Soccer franchise, and a Women's National Basketball Association franchise — to the city, if the benefits outweigh the potential costs. Potential considerations include:
 - a. The renovation of historic Cotton Bowl Stadium to National Football League standards and the Fair Park Coliseum to Women's National Basketball Association standards, including through the use of funds available following an affirmative vote in the November 2022 "Brimer Bill" election;
 - b. The development of Hensley Field into a professional sports stadium site, a world headquarters, and/or a practice facility akin to The Star in Frisco;
 - c. Potential public ownership models — akin to the model employed by the Green Bay Packers — for a new professional sports franchise in the City of Dallas; and

- d. Strategies to facilitate and encourage the participation of historically underrepresented groups — such as African Americans, Latinos, and women — in equity ownership of any new professional sports franchises.
7. Other duties as assigned by the mayor.

The following City Councilmembers are assigned to the committee:

- Eric Johnson (Chair)
- Tennell Atkins
- Adam Bazaldua
- Paula Blackmon
- Casey Thomas

I look forward to working with you all on these important issues for our city.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

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
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Mark Swann, City Auditor