

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE July 5, 2022

TO T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney

SUBJECT **Public Safety Initiatives**

Dear Mr. Broadnax and Mr. Caso:

As you know, I recently launched our “Summer of Safety” campaign to keep our young people safe while they are out of school with the help of our free and low-cost city programs. This effort is part of a holistic approach to reducing violent crime in Dallas as we strive to become the safest major city in the United States.

As we have discussed, we must also continue to be relentless in our pursuit of public safety policies and partnerships that can make a measurable difference in our communities.

To that end, as we continue to work collaboratively on public safety initiatives, I am hereby requesting that you prioritize the following:

- **Blight remediation:** Blight remediation was one of the top recommendations of my Task Force on Safe Communities two-and-a-half years ago. While the Dallas City Council has previously committed to funding blight remediation efforts in our annual budget, my staff has begun to work with the City Attorney’s Office on a new policy — modeled on a successful program in Philadelphia — that would take our city’s blight remediation efforts to the next level. I am requesting that both of you give your full support to developing this policy and moving it forward to ensure that Dallas can continue to reduce violent crime in our communities.
- **School partnerships:** Our schools play a critical role in keeping our children safe. Dr. Stephanie Elizalde, the new superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District, was previously a member of my Task Force on Safe Communities and helped champion the expansion of the Becoming A Man (BAM) and Working On Womanhood (WOW) programs in Dallas ISD schools. We must continue to push for further expansions of these efforts in Dallas ISD and in all the school districts inside our city limits. I trust that you will make the Dallas Police Department’s crime analysts and other city staff available to our educational partners so that their resources are directed to areas where they are most needed.
- **Focused deterrence:** In the upcoming budget, I will support funding for the Dallas Police Department’s planned focused deterrence program. Police Chief Eddie Garcia has been a proponent of such a program, saying it will be integral to his violent crime reduction plan. I would request that both of you begin work to develop this program so that it can be implemented expeditiously upon passage of the budget.

- **Challenging alcohol licenses of bad actors:** Several violent incidents in our city's vibrant and thriving nightlife districts have caused some safety concerns. I appreciate the efforts of our police department and our community partners in response, but we must ensure we are doing everything we can to make our signature neighborhoods as safe as possible. Therefore, I would like to see the Dallas Police Department and the City Attorney's Office partner to challenge the alcoholic beverage licenses of any businesses that have acted irresponsibly and catalyzed public safety issues in these neighborhoods. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has an established process in place for such license protests, and we should be willing to take full advantage of that process in the interests of public safety.
- **Dallas City Council committee briefings:** I would like for you both to work with the chairs of our standing committees of the Dallas City Council to develop briefings this fall regarding strategies that various city departments and agencies can contribute to public safety in Dallas. For example, your staff could brief the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee on the overlap between high-violence locations and the "infrastructure deserts" identified by a recent Southern Methodist University study on the matter. Such an analysis could help us prioritize the allocation of infrastructure resources for those areas.

Thank you for your consideration of these initiatives. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,



Eric Johnson
Mayor

c: Adam McGough, Chairman, Public Safety Committee
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Mark Swann, City Auditor