

Memorandum

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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 8, 2023
TO T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
SUBJECT **2024 Bond Program Briefings**

Dear Mr. Broadnax:

In early 2023, Dallas City Council members appointed a total of 90 volunteers, representing communities across our city, to the Community Bond Task Force and five related subcommittees. These City Council appointees spent eight months reviewing data, debating priorities, and gathering public input — in both English and Spanish — from thousands of Dallas residents. This deliberative process resulted in the group's consensus on funding levels and projects they recommended for inclusion in the planned \$1.1 billion 2024 Bond Program.

On Wednesday, December 6, 2023, the Community Bond Task Force and the City Manager's staff provided the Dallas City Council with the recommended amounts for each proposition on the 2024 Capital Bond Program. The staff recommendations include substantial cuts to arts, libraries, parks, economic development, and flood control from what was proposed by the representatives for the people of Dallas.

Unfortunately, I could not attend the meeting due to a medical reason, but I was keenly interested in the discussion. I was very surprised that at the end of the meeting, you pronounced that the Dallas City Council would disregard the task force's recommendation and move forward instead with city staff's recommendation as a starting point for future discussions.

As a reminder, this is absolutely not the decision of the city manager or city staff. While we always appreciate staff input, this is a policy decision that belongs first to the Dallas City Council and then ultimately to the people of Dallas, who must approve spending more than \$1 billion — their hard-earned taxpayer dollars — on investments in our city.

I would also note that while you initially proposed creating a task force, you did not create it. The duly elected members of the Dallas City Council did, and the task force's work was then shaped directly by the people of Dallas. To throw out the Community Bond Task Force's work at this point would be a grave mistake, and it would be incredibly disrespectful to the volunteers who gave their time and to the members of the public who took part in this process.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 6.1 of the Dallas City Council Rules of Procedure, please ensure that future briefings and voting items on the 2024 Bond Program utilize the Community Bond Task Force recommendations as a starting point. Any staff recommendations included in the briefing must be explained in detail as compared to the original CBTF recommendations.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Eric L. Johnson
Mayor

c: Bilierae Johnson, City Secretary
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
John Jenkins, Director, Dallas Park and Recreation