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CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS



CITY OF DALLAS

## Memorandum

DATE August 18, 2023

TO Honorable Members of the Dallas City Council

SUBJECT **Committees for the 2023-25 City Council Term**

Dear Colleagues:

Over the last two years, we have united as a City Council to address the basic needs of the people of Dallas and plan for our city's future. It is because of this unity that we have been able to achieve such remarkable gains for our city's residents.

At our inauguration in June, I discussed the critical issues facing our city and laid out an agenda for the next two years. To create an environment where our residents and businesses can continue to thrive, we must continue to work tirelessly to address our city's needs and lead Dallas further down the path toward becoming the safest major city in the United States with the best park system in Texas and the lowest tax rate in the North Texas region.

The important work required to achieve these ambitious goals will be done primarily through our City Council committees. Accordingly, pursuant to the Dallas City Charter, Ch. III, §13, I am hereby making the committee assignments listed below for the 2023-2025 City Council term. These assignments are effective immediately.

In addition to the below assignments, I have included my top policy priorities for each of the standing committees and the new Ad Hoc Committee on Pensions. As always, I encourage committee chairs to work closely with my office to ensure progress, address issues as they arise, and adapt as appropriate to the ever-evolving needs of our city's residents.

### **Economic Development**

Tennell Atkins (Chair)  
Omar Narvaez (Vice Chair)  
Carolyn King Arnold  
Adam Bazaldua  
Paul Ridley  
Kathy Stewart  
Chad West

**Policy Priority:** Partner with the Mayor's Working Group on Downtown Revitalization to provide oversight over the redevelopment of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center

## **Government Performance and Financial Management**

Chad West (Chair)  
Paula Blackmon (Vice Chair)  
Cara Mendelsohn  
Jesse Moreno  
Jaime Resendez

**Policy Priority:** Recommend ways to deliver city services more efficiently and cost-effectively so that we can provide additional, significant property tax relief to Dallas residents and businesses and get closer to our goal of becoming the major city with the lowest tax rate in the North Texas region

## **Housing and Homelessness Solutions**

Jesse Moreno (Chair)  
Cara Mendelsohn (Vice Chair)  
Zarin Gracey  
Chad West  
Gay Donnell Willis

**Policy Priority:** Evaluate the report produced by the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness, Organizations, Policies, and Encampments and recommend ways to enhance coordination between the City of Dallas and our non-profit, county, state, and federal partners to reduce homelessness in Dallas

## **Parks, Trails, and the Environment**

Kathy Stewart (Chair)  
Jesse Moreno (Vice Chair)  
Carolyn King Arnold  
Adam Bazaldua  
Paula Blackmon  
Omar Narvaez  
Chad West

**Policy Priorities:** Lead Dallas further down the path toward becoming the major city with the best park system in Texas by supporting the efforts of the Mayor's Greening Czar to transform vacant, unused, and underused city-owned land into green space; identify ways to increase the number of Dallas residents who live within a 10-minute walk of a park; recommend ways to increase Dallas' ranking on the ParkScore index; explore policies to support the mission of Keep Dallas Beautiful; and assess the efforts being made toward breaking ground on Harold Simmons Park and support said efforts

## **Public Safety**

Cara Mendelsohn (Chair)  
Kathy Stewart (Vice Chair)  
Tennell Atkins  
Jesse Moreno  
Gay Donnell Willis

**Policy Priority:** Examine policies and procedures that will lead us closer to our goal of becoming the safest major city in the United States, including identifying strategies to retain our police officers and to achieve a success rate in hiring the number of new police officers budgeted for to the levels we regularly achieved prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic

## **Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture**

Adam Bazaldua (Chair)  
Jaime Resendez (Vice Chair)  
Paula Blackmon  
Zarin Gracey  
Paul Ridley  
Jaynie Schultz  
Gay Donnell Willis

**Policy Priorities:** Develop comprehensive strategies to better serve Dallas' senior population and examine the possibility of establishing an independent, non-profit entity that can take the lead in restoring the Kalita Humphreys Theater and manage the site

## **Transportation and Infrastructure**

Omar Narvaez (Chair)  
Zarin Gracey (Vice Chair)  
Tennell Atkins  
Cara Mendelsohn  
Jaime Resendez  
Jaynie Schultz  
Kathy Stewart

**Policy Priorities:** Work with the Mayor's Working Group for Federal Infrastructure Investment to maximize the amount of competitive federal grant funding Dallas receives in order to enhance our infrastructure and to relieve the burden on Dallas taxpayers to fund infrastructure improvements; work with the North Central Texas Council of Governments and other stakeholders to ensure any proposed high-speed rail projects prioritize the economic development and growth of the Central Business District and complement our efforts to redevelop the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, attract corporate headquarters, and build more workforce housing

## **Workforce, Education, and Equity**

Jaynie Schultz (Chair)  
Carolyn King Arnold (Vice Chair)  
Adam Bazaldua  
Paula Blackmon  
Jaime Resendez  
Paul Ridley  
Gay Donnell Willis

**Policy Priority:** Work with the Mayor's Workforce Czar to increase the impact of Workforce Dallas and implement other recommendations from the Upskilling Dallas: How to Modernize the City's Workforce for the Jobs of Tomorrow report

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Affairs**

Tennell Atkins (Chair)  
Cara Mendelsohn  
Jesse Moreno

## **Ad Hoc Committee on General Investigating and Ethics**

Cara Mendelsohn (Chair)  
Zarin Gracey  
Mayor Eric Johnson  
Jaynie Schultz  
Kathy Stewart

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Nominations**

Paul Ridley (Chair)  
Jaime Resendez  
Chad West

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs**

Cara Mendelsohn (Chair)  
Tennell Atkins  
Zarin Gracey  
Omar Narvaez  
Kathy Stewart

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Pensions**

Tennell Atkins (Chair)  
Paula Blackmon  
Cara Mendelsohn  
Jesse Moreno  
Jaime Resendez  
Kathy Stewart  
Chad West  
Gay Donnell Willis

**Policy Priority:** Receive recommendations from the Mayor's Dallas Police and Fire Pension System Study Group to put the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System on a path to solvency and propose concrete steps to address the unfunded liability of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Sports Recruitment and Retention**

Zarin Gracey (Chair)  
Paula Blackmon  
Mayor Eric Johnson  
Jesse Moreno  
Omar Narvaez  
Jaime Resendez  
Jaynie Schultz

I look forward to working with you all through these committees to better position Dallas to reach its full potential.

Sincerely,



Eric L. Johnson  
Mayor

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Tammy Palomino, Interim City Attorney

Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager