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Memorandum

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CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE June 14, 2024

TO Plano City Manager Mark Israelson and North Texas Municipal Water District  
Executive Director and General Manager Jenna Covington

SUBJECT **Frequent Sanitation Overflow into White Rock Creek and its Tributaries**

On behalf of the residents of District 9 and the City of Dallas as a whole, I am requesting the City of Plano and the North Texas Municipal Water District investigate and address the frequent sanitary sewer overflows into White Rock Creek and ultimately throughout Dallas. Our community's well-being and environmental health are our top priority, and we need further clarification on the issues that transpired to cause multiple overflows in recent years as well as what actions are being taken by both entities to correct these issues.

**1. Transparency and Accountability:**

- The frequency of overflows must be investigated along with what infrastructure is failing and leading to these overflows. The City of Dallas requests improved communications from the City of Plano and North Texas Municipal Water District regarding which entity is responsible for each overflow.
- The City of Dallas must preserve the water quality of White Rock Lake to ensure our residents shall be able to enjoy recreational aquatic activities for years to come, to maintain the beauty of White Rock Lake and the surrounding neighborhoods, and to protect the nature and wildlife which reside in and around White Rock Lake.
- The City of Dallas must ensure we are receiving accurate reports regarding the severity of these sanitation overflows as well as which entity is responsible so we may relay that information to our residents.

**2. Infrastructure Upgrades and Maintenance:**

- The City of Dallas would like information regarding infrastructure upgrades and maintenance plans for the City of Plano and Texas Municipal Water District's Wastewater Infrastructure.
- The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) and the City of Plano must work together to establish an effective plan to maintain their infrastructure to prevent future spills into White Rock Creek and its tributaries.

**3. Requests:**

- **Identification of Overflowing Systems:** We request clarity on which specific sanitary sewer systems are overflowing and which entity bears responsibility for each individual sanitary sewer system overflow incident into White Rock Creek and its tributaries.
- **Root Cause Investigation:** An explanation of the root cause or causes behind the sanitary sewer system overflows over the past decade.

- **Proximity to Creeks:** We seek an explanation for why sanitary sewer infrastructure is located near or within a creek.
- **Response Procedures:** Clear guidelines on response procedures for residents and for notifying neighboring municipalities during sanitary sewer overflow events.
- **Public Health Impact:** We need insights into the public health implications from both the City of Plano and NTMWD perspectives.
- **Participation in State Programs:** Information on state programs related to maintenance, repair, and replacement of sanitary sewer infrastructure which the City of Plano and/or NTMWD participate in.
- **Infrastructure Plans:** Details about condition assessments and plans for repairs or replacements of sanitary sewer systems which have overflowed into White Rock Creek and its tributaries.
- **Infrastructure Relocation:** Any plans to relocate infrastructure situated near creeks that flow into White Rock Creek, White Rock Lake, or throughout Dallas as a whole.
- **Enhanced Communication:** Increased public communication regarding sanitary sewer overflows into White Rock Creek and its tributaries.

We urge a commitment to better communication and proactive prevention efforts from the City of Plano and NTMWD. Let us collaborate to safeguard our waterways and ensure public health.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Paula C Blackmon

Dallas City Councilwoman District 9

c: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager (I) Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager  
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager (I)  
Mark Swann, City Auditor Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager (I)  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement, and Alignment (I)  
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety (I) Directors and Assistant Directors  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager