

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 19, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

In accordance with Dallas City Code Chapter 8, Section 8-1.1, the Ethics Advisory Commission is submitting its Annual Report of the Commission's activities for your review.

Timothy E. Powers

Timothy Powers, Chair
Ethics Advisory Commission

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary



CITY OF DALLAS

ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

**ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEMBERS	TAB 1
• Attendance Log	
MISSION STATEMENT	TAB 2
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	TAB 3
COMPLAINTS ADDRESSED IN 2020	TAB 4

TAB 1

COMMISSIONERS

The Ethics Advisory Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the full City Council. At each biennial appointment, the Mayor determines the interview method for all nominees submitted for consideration (i.e., interview by full City Council, a City Council Committee, or Ad-Hoc Committee established for this purpose).

Current Members	Position	Member as of	Current Status	Terms Served
Timothy E. Powers, Chair	4	9/30/19	Appointed 9/18/19	0
Thomas P. Perkins, Vice Chair	2	9/27/19	Appointed 9/18/19	0
Paul D. Castillo	1	4/17/18	Reappointed 9/18/19	1
Royce B. West, II	3	3/30/17	Reappointed 9/25/19	1
Grant K. Schmidt	5	2/12/20	Appointed 2/05/20	0
Cassandra Hernandez	6	10/04/19	Appointed 9/25/19	0
Pam Gerber	7	11/06/15	Reappointed 8/28/19	2

OTHER COMMISSIONERS SERVING IN 2020

Commissioner	Position	Original Appointment Date	Current Status
Molly E. Whitman	5	9/18/19	Resigned 1/13/20

**2020
ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE LOG**

2020 MEETING DATES	PLACE	1/21/2020 REGULAR MEETING	4/21/2020 REGULAR MEETING	7/21/2020 REGULAR MEETING	10/20/2020 REGULAR MEETING
Paul D. Castillo	01	A	CANCELLED	P	CANCELLED
Thomas P. Perkins	02	P	CANCELLED	P	CANCELLED
Royce B. West, II	03	P	CANCELLED	A	CANCELLED
Timothy E. Powers	04	P	CANCELLED	P	CANCELLED
Grant K. Schmidt	05	V	CANCELLED	P	CANCELLED
Cassandra Hernandez	06	P	CANCELLED	P	CANCELLED
Pam Gerber	07	P	CANCELLED	P	CANCELLED

LEGEND: A=ABSENT, P=PRESENT, V=VACANT, T=TERM ENDED, R=REPLACED/RESIGNED

TAB 2

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ethics Advisory Commission is an advisory body having the jurisdiction to review and make findings concerning any alleged violation of Chapter 12A (Code of Ethics) of the Dallas City Code. It can make findings concerning any persons subject to the provisions of the Code, including but not limited to current city officials and employees, former city officials and employees and persons doing business with the city. Complaints must be filed within one year after the date of the alleged violation(s).

The Ethics Advisory Commission has the power to:

- (1) Establish, amend, and rescind rules and procedures governing its own internal organization and operations in a manner and form consistent with this article.
- (2) Meet as often as necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.
- (3) Request from the city manager through the city council the appointment of such staff as is necessary to carry out the duties of the commission.
- (4) Review, index, maintain on file, and dispose of sworn complaints.
- (5) Make findings of fact as necessary for the disposition of a complaint.
- (6) Make notifications, extend deadlines, and conduct investigations of violations within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Advisory Commission.
- (7) Advise and make recommendations to the city council concerning the city's ethics code and ethics policies.
- (8) Make determinations that complaints are frivolous, make findings of facts, and sanction persons who file frivolous complaints.
- (9) Such other powers as are specifically granted in this chapter or by the city council.

[Dallas City Code, Chapter 12A, Section 25(c)]

TAB 3

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Complaint Activity:

The Ethics Advisory Commission met as a body two times this year (see Tab 1). The City Secretary's Office received 7 ethics complaints for the year. A Preliminary Panel of the Ethics Advisory Commission met to hear complaints 4 times (see Tab 4).

Future Goals:

The Ethics Advisory Commission will continue to emphasize education and training as integral parts to an effective city ethics program as a means of achieving an ethical climate. The Ethics Advisory Commission will also continue to identify and explore avenues for the promotion of a healthy ethical culture throughout city government.

TAB 4

COMPLAINTS PROCESSED

DATE FILED	COMPLAINANT	RESPONDENT(S)	DATE HEARD	STATUS/OUTCOME
1/29/20	City Auditor's Office, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Services	David Blewett Councilmember	2/24/20	Dismissed by Preliminary Panel. Based upon the evidence submitted, the complaint failed to state a claim under Chapter 12A Dallas City Code (Code of Ethics)
4/10/20	Barry A. Jacobs	Casey Thomas, II Councilmember	5/05/20	Dismissed by Preliminary Panel. Based upon the evidence submitted, the complaint failed to state a claim under Chapter 12A Dallas City Code (Code of Ethics)
4/10/20	Barry A. Jacobs	Sarah Mendola City Attorney	5/05/20	Dismissed by Preliminary Panel. Based upon the evidence submitted, the complaint failed to state a claim under Chapter 12A Dallas City Code (Code of Ethics)
8/13/20	Trisha Seidel	Sarah Lamb Board of Adjustment Member (Panel A)	9/04/20	Dismissed by Preliminary Panel. Based upon the evidence submitted, the complaint stated a claim, but was not supported by just cause under Chapter 12A Dallas City Code (Code of Ethics)

Signature: *Timothy E. Powers*
Timothy E. Powers (Jan 19, 2021 10:34 CST)

Email: timothy.powers@haynesboone.com