



PARKS FOR DOWNTOWN DALLAS

For The Greener Good

March 31, 2021

Ms. Calvert Collins-Bratton
President
Dallas Park and Recreation Board

Mr. John D. Jenkins
Director
Dallas Park and Recreation Department

1500 Marilla Street, Suite 6FN
Dallas, Texas 75201

Dear Ms. Collins-Bratton and Mr. Jenkins,

I am writing on behalf of Parks for Downtown Dallas (formerly The Belo Foundation), Belo Corp., Maureen and Robert Decherd, and the Hudson Foundation to request that the name of Belo Garden in Downtown Dallas be changed to Civic Garden. This proposed name is in keeping with the intent of the aforementioned private sector donors who underwrote the entire cost of the park's construction in 2011 – 2012 and created two substantial endowments to support the park. It is their collective view that the park's current recognition of Alfred Horatio Belo is inconsistent with their original intent in light of the social justice movement underway in the United States.

You will recall that the donors' purpose in paying for this park's construction was two-fold: (1) to create a beautiful public space and encourage the implementation of the entire Downtown Parks Master Plan unanimously approved by the Park Board and City Council, and (2) to honor the women and men of *The Dallas Morning News* and WFAA-TV who have practiced distinguished journalism in Dallas beginning in 1885 when *The News* was established by G. B. Dealey on behalf of A. H. Belo. G. B. Dealey is widely regarded as one of the most impactful and far-sighted leaders in Dallas history.

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Parks for Downtown Dallas is the successor organization to The Belo Foundation, which was funded for more than 60 years by the parent company of *The News* and WFAA. We now focus exclusively on implementation of the Downtown Parks Master Plan and long-term advocacy for Downtown parks generally. Maureen and Robert Decherd are the largest donors to parks inside the freeway loop and continue to be heavily involved with the Master Plan's implementation.

Parks for Downtown Dallas will arrange and pay for the installation of new signage at Belo Garden provided we receive Park Board approval to proceed. Attached is the recommended language for the new dedication plaque.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy M. Meadows". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy M. Meadows
President and Chief Executive Officer