

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 12, 2021

TO Chairman Adam McGough, Public Safety Committee
Chairwoman Cara Mendelsohn, Government Performance and Financial Management

SUBJECT Joint Special-Called Meeting on DPD Data Deletion

Dear Chairman McGough and Chairwoman Mendelsohn:

Like both of you, I was blindsided Wednesday by the report that 22 terabytes of evidence from various Dallas Police Department criminal cases were deleted earlier this year and that 8 terabytes of evidence are still missing. That news was especially stunning because this problem apparently has been known to some City of Dallas officials for months — yet only came to our attention when the Dallas County District Attorney notified defense attorneys of this issue.

This is a very serious matter. Public safety is the bedrock of our city government. Missing evidence could have major consequences for pending criminal cases, which could leave victims without justice and undermine our efforts to build a safer city.

The people of Dallas deserve answers. Because this issue pertains to the jurisdictions of both the Government Performance & Financial Management Committee and the Public Safety Committee, I am requesting that you call a joint special-called meeting of your committees to discuss the data deletion, the troubling lack of communication from city staff about what transpired, and the steps being taken to resolve the matter and prevent future occurrences.

As elected officials and policymakers in our form of government, it is our responsibility to provide oversight of critical government operations on behalf of our residents. I am a firm believer in the committee process, and I trust that your committees together will conduct a full, fair, and thorough hearing on these matters.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric Johnson
Mayor

Cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Mark Swann, City Auditor