

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 12, 2021

TO T.C. Broadnax, City Manager

SUBJECT DPD Overtime Budget Amendment

Dear Mr. Broadnax:

I want to notify you that at the September 22 Dallas City Council meeting, I will be offering an amendment to restore the \$10 million to the Dallas Police Department's overtime budget from non-departmental reserves.

With Friday's release of *Audit of Dallas Police Department Overtime – Interim Report*, the city council should have the opportunity to reevaluate the budgeting maneuver that passed narrowly during the September 9 city council meeting. That vote was tied to the need to be briefed on the aforementioned audit, which clearly states that there was no "unusual employee overtime usage that indicates waste or abuse at the Dallas Police Department during the audit period of October 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020" and offered no recommendations for changes.

I had requested the police overtime audit because I was concerned about the allegations made last year that taxpayer money was being wasted, and I believed that if any evidence existed of such waste, we needed to address it promptly. After reading this interim report's findings, I am satisfied that no problem exists.

Our police chief has stated unequivocally that he will need the \$10 million in funding to be available to him as he continues to implement the police department's violent crime reduction plan. The city council had already cut the overtime budget below the amount that you had initially proposed in your budget. In addition, now that we have voted on first reading to support a budget that already calls for a necessary increase in the police budget during Fiscal Year 2022-2023, we can feel comfortable that we will comply with new state requirements next year even if the \$10 million is restored.

Robust oversight and fiscal responsibility is needed in city government, but the amount of police overtime included in your proposed budget was completely reasonable based on available data, and it marks a reduction from the current fiscal year's spending. This additional reduction in police overtime adds an unnecessary burden — one to which no other city department, including those that also exceeded their approved overtime allocations during the current fiscal year, will be subjected.

If we hope to reduce police overtime expenditures in the future, we can do so by hiring an adequate number of officers to meet our city's public safety needs. I want to reaffirm my support for your plans to hire 500 officers over the next two fiscal years and to pay market-rate salaries to attract and retain the best police officers. I am pleased that the city council has expressed its support for these plans as well.

We must, of course, still be prudent. That is why I appreciated the additional proposed controls listed on page 33 of your budget to reduce the demand for police overtime, including:

- matching call for service supply with demand by implementing the KPMG staffing model in all 7 patrol stations;
- adjusting schedules within the investigative bureau;
- increasing accountability at the supervisor level at the bureaus and stations; expanding the use of the Dallas Online Reporting System (DORS) and expeditors to reduce the time patrol officers spend on low priority calls;
- and coordinating with Transportation to address street racing, which currently account for an estimated \$1.9 million in annualized overtime expenses.

Additional suggestions for increasing efficiency should still be discussed before the Public Safety Committee. But we should commit now to giving our police department the resources they need to fight crime. Public safety must come first.

Please work with our city attorney and chief financial officer on any necessary technical review for this amendment. I look forward to discussing this matter with you and the full city council.

Sincerely,

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

Eric Johnson
Mayor

Cc: Adam McGough, Public Safety Committee Chairman
Cara Mendelsohn, Government Performance & Financial Management Committee Chairwoman
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Mark Swann, City Auditor