

**ERIC JOHNSON**  
**Mayor of Dallas**



January 5, 2022

T.C. Broadnax  
City Manager - City of Dallas  
Room 4EN  
Dallas City Hall  
1500 Marilla Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201

Dear Mr. Broadnax:

We are in receipt of your memorandum announcing the departure of Eric Anthony Johnson from the position of Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services, and we understand this leaves a vacancy in an important leadership position during a critical time for our city.

We recognize that as the city manager, this hiring decision is ultimately yours alone to make. But with the historic formation of a new Economic Development Corporation, the continued implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Policy, the ongoing issues with our permitting office, the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the fierce competition emanating from both other major American cities and our North Texas suburbs, it is vital to us that you hire the right leader to guide our economic development efforts.

This should be a highly coveted position. Dallas is the ninth-largest city in the country, and only two other top 10 cities grew at a faster rate during the last decade. Our city is also the economic engine of the fourth-largest metropolitan region in the United States. Dallas needs and deserves an economic development chief who clearly understands both our problems and our potential and who demonstrates extensive expertise and an ability to get things done.

Accordingly, before you hire internally or rely on your personal network to fill this vacancy, as you have done frequently in the past, we urge you to conduct a thorough national search for candidates who have significant economic development leadership experience in a major city and a proven track record of success.

We also strongly suggest that you seek feedback on candidates from leaders in our local business and development communities who will need to work effectively with this new economic development chief. The mayor's office similarly advocated for a more inclusive input process as you looked to hire a new police chief in late 2020. The result was that you hired an experienced former police chief from another top 10 American city. And in the year since then, we have seen improved police officer morale, reduced violent crime, and restored confidence in our public safety efforts. It is our hope that you will take a similar approach for this high-stakes hiring decision because we believe it will again help identify the best possible person for this key position.

We look forward to hearing from you on this process and to working with the next Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services during the consequential years ahead.

Sincerely,



Eric Johnson  
Mayor



Tennell Atkins  
Chairman  
Economic Development Committee