

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 8, 2024

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Cancellation of the 2024 Bond Informational Townhall Meetings**

2024 Bond Program Background

As part of the City Council briefings in December 2023 and February 2024, the Office of Bond and Construction Management (BCM) provided a timeline with major milestones leading to a May 2024 election. The timeline shared in the City Council briefings included Informational Townhall Meetings in April 2024. On February 14, 2024, the City Council approved an ordinance approving a May 2024 Bond election.

Following the City Council approval of the May 2024 Bond Election on February 14, 2024, BCM began finalizing the project listing for the Bond program with members of Dallas City Council and working with multiple departments to coordinate the April Informational Townhall Meetings. Since beginning the planning for the 2024 Bond Informational Townhall Meetings has started, clarification has been provided which will result in the cancellation of the town hall meetings. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional details which led to the cancellation of the 2024 Bond Informational Townhall Meetings.

Memorandum of Rules of Political Activity and Advocacy

On March 1, 2024, the City Attorney's Office (CAO) provided a memorandum to the City Council Members and City Officials providing general information on applicable rules and regulations guiding political activity and advocacy as it relates to the bond program. Within that memorandum, it was stressed that City Council Members or City Officials cannot "knowingly spend or authorize the spending of public funds for political advertising" or for "communication describing a ballot measure in an election" that would reasonably likely influence a voter to vote for or against a proposition.

Additional Clarification on Bond Informational Townhall Meetings

Since the distribution of the CAO memorandum, BCM met with the CAO for clarification as it related to the informational townhall meetings. It was determined that discussions of individual projects at the informational townhalls would reasonably likely influence a voter to vote for or against a proposition. Any Informational Townhall Meetings would be restricted to the ballot language, proposition description, proposition amount and the payback amount for that proposition with no reference to individual projects.

As a result of the project listing discussion restriction, the informational townhalls for the 2024 Bond program have been cancelled. The Bond Office is working the CAO and bond counsel to determine when the individual project listing can be shared with the public.

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If you have any questions please contact Jenny Nicewander, Director, Office of Bond & Construction Management at jennifer.nicewander@dallas.gov.



Robert M. Perez, Ph.D.
Assistant City Manager

Attachment: City Attorney Office Memorandum, *Political Activities and Advocacy of City Council Members, City Officials, and City Employees for an Election Ordered by the City of Dallas for a measure or Proposition*

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors