

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 3, 2023

TO Honorable Members of the Workforce, Education and Equity Committee

SUBJECT **Update on Cities and Counties for Fine and Fee Equitably (CAFFE)**

Background

In May 2020, the City of Dallas was selected as one of ten jurisdictions across the country to participate in the inaugural Cities and Counties for Fine and Fee Justice Cohort (CFFJC) facilitated by PolicyLink, the City of San Francisco's Financial Justice Project, and the Fines and Fees Justice Center, each nationally recognized for their work in advancing racial and economic equity through research and advocacy. Participation in the Cohort included a \$50,000 grant and an 18-month program to receive technical expertise and guidance from jurisdictions and thought leaders with experience in fine and fee reform. Several outcomes stemmed from the work with CFFJC including the City sunsetting participation in the Scofflaw program, the City of Dallas Municipal Court ceasing to send new driver's license holds for citations, and the redesign of the following court forms: reminder letter, default postcard, and warrant postcard. Currently, the City is in the process of translating all forms in Dallas' top five languages to reduce the disparate impact on historically disadvantaged communities.

Most recently, in alignment with the City of Dallas' Racial Equity Plan, the City applied and was selected by National League of Cities (NLC) to be a part of the Cities Addressing Fines and Fees Equitably (CAFFE) Initiative. The CAFFE initiative aims to strengthen the financial security for families by improving the financial stability of residents who are at risk of losing income and assets. CAFFE is in alignment with the City's work to provide free access to personal financial coaching through Dallas' Financial Empowerment Center. This 16-month project will provide the City with technical assistance, peer-learning opportunities, and an initial \$10,000 planning grant and the opportunity to apply for a second round of implementation funding.

National League of Cities CAFFE Initiative is designed to:

- Increase racial equity and economic mobility for residents by helping cities mitigate the often-harmful impacts of municipal fines and fees; and
- Implement innovative collection approaches

The City's participation in this current Cohort builds upon our previous participation in the inaugural 2020 Cities and Counties for Fine and Fee Justice Cohort, aligns with Equity Indicator 40: Fines and Fees in the 2019 Equity Indicators Report and is tied to the Economic, Workforce and Community Big Audacious Goal in the Racial Equity Plan. Should you have

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any questions or need further information, please contact Dr. Lindsey Wilson, Director, Office of Equity and Inclusion.



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Tammy Palomino, Interim City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera 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
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors