

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 18, 2026  
TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee: Zarin Gracey (Chair), Laura Cadena (Vice Chair), Adam Bazaldua, Paul Ridley, Bill Roth, Chad West, Gay Willis  
SUBJECT **Status Update on Boards and Commissions Supported by Office of Housing and Community Empowerment**

The purpose of this memo is to update the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee on the advisory commissions and boards that the Office of Housing and Community Empowerment (OHCE) supports.

## Background

City of Dallas boards and commissions are governed by both the City Charter and the Dallas City Code, which together establish the framework for appointments, service, and operating procedures.

**City Charter:** Chapter XXIV of the City Charter establishes citywide rules related to appointments and tenure for boards and commissions, including:

- **Nomination cycle and term length:** the City Council begins the nomination process in August of each odd-numbered year. Members may serve terms of up to two years beginning October 1.
- **Holdover limit:** members of bodies that are only advisory in nature may not remain past their term limit or in “holdover status” for more than nine months after a term expires or a vacancy occurs. After June 30, 2026, any members in holdover advisory board and commission positions will be vacated by the City Secretary’s Office.
- **Additional service rules:** the Charter also includes broader provisions related to board and commission service, such as limits on simultaneous service, attendance-based forfeiture, and removal for cause.

**City Code:** Chapter 8 of the Dallas City Code provides the default governance procedures for boards and commissions, including:

- **Annual Reporting:** Each board must submit an annual report to the City Council by February 1.
- **Meeting Procedures:** Establishes rules related to regular and special meetings, quorum, and public meeting requirements.
- **Minutes and Attendance:** Boards must submit minutes and attendance records to the City Secretary, and attendance rules may result in forfeiture of membership.
- **Chair and Vice-Chair Procedures:** Sets default rules for the role of the chair and provides that, unless otherwise specified, the chair and vice-chair is appointed by the full City Council.

- **Administrative Routing:** Board recommendations, resolutions, reports, and findings must move through established city administrative procedures to the appropriate department or the City Council.

### **Advisory Boards and Commissions supported by OHCE**

OHCE provides support to nine advisory boards and commissions. The following list includes the name of the boards and commissions:

- **Citizen Homelessness Commission (Code §§ 2-147, 2-148, 2-149):** Provides recommendations to better align City and regional homelessness services through inclusive stakeholder engagement, including individuals with lived experience, to improve the overall community response.
- **College Advisory Commission (Code §§ 2-172, 2-173, 2-174):** Recommends strategies to improve the college student experience in Dallas and support student success, while strengthening the city's cultural and economic vibrancy.
- **Commission on Disabilities (Code §§ 2-152.1, 2-152.3, 2-152.4):** Advises the City on matters of importance to people with disabilities, recommends policies and practices responsive to their needs, and promotes greater understanding across Dallas' diverse disability community.
- **Dallas Housing Finance Corporation (Texas Housing Finance Corporations Act, Chapter 394, Texas Local Government Code):** Assists the City in financing residential development to provide safe and sanitary housing for persons of low and moderate income. It issues tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds for the acquisition or rehabilitation of multi-family housing, with a statutory requirement that at least 90% of units serve households earning at or below 60% of the area median income.
- **Dallas Public Facility Corporation (Public Facility Corporation Act, Chapter 303, Texas Local Government Code):** Assists the City in financing, refinancing, or providing public facilities with a primary focus on developing and preserving mixed-income workforce housing. It leverages future ad valorem tax revenue to support communities that serve residents earning at or below 80% of the area median income while also providing non-income restricted units.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Board (Code §§ 2-125, 2-126, 2-127, 2-129):** Provides advisory support to the City regarding the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and makes recommendations on programs and policies that strengthen the surrounding community.
- **Senior Affairs Commission (Code §§ 2-140, 2-141):** Recommends the role of the City in supporting services for older adults, advises on elderly issues, and helps identify needed programs.
- **Veteran Affairs Commission (Code §§ 2-170, 2-171):** Advises on programs, policies, and practices that support veterans in meeting basic needs, housing, employment, and mental health needs.

- **Youth Commission (Code §§ 2-159, 2-159.1, 2-160):** Promotes youth leadership and civic engagement by encouraging participation in civic affairs, public policy, and advocacy.

Currently, there are 73 members serving, 12 of whom are in holdover status that will be relinquished after June 30, 2026, and 17 vacancies as of May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Board	Advisory Area	Chair Appointed	Vice Chair Appointed	Appointed	Holdover Status	Vacancies
Citizens Homeless Commission	Regional homelessness services	Yes	Yes	15	1	0
College Advisory Commission	College student experience and student success	No	No	0	0	0
Commission on Disabilities	Responding to the needs of residents with disabilities	Yes	No	10	1	6
Dallas Housing Finance Corporation	Financing and development of safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for low-to-moderate income residents.	Yes	Yes	13	0	2
Dallas Public Facility Corporation	Corporation, Financing, development, and preservation of mixed-income workforce housing and public facilities.	Yes	Yes	14	0	1

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Board	Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, programs and policies that promote education, expand access to needed resources	Yes	Yes	10	2	5
Senior Affairs Commission	Services for older adults and elderly issues	No	No	12	4	3
Veteran Affairs Commission	Military veterans in meeting basic needs	Yes	No	13	0	3
Youth Commission	Promotes youth leadership	No	No	14	4	1

### Next Steps

OHCE staff will continue working with each commission to identify opportunities for recommendations and strengthening engagement with the Drivers of Opportunity (DO!) and Dallas is Home policy frameworks. As part of this work, OHCE staff will work with board chairs to refine agendas to better align discussions with City priorities, support each commission’s work more holistically, and invite guest representatives from partner organizations and City departments to inform commission dialogue, strengthen coordination, and help advance policy and service delivery efforts.

Additionally, staff have been reviewing the function and appointment of the College Advisory Commission (CAC). The appointments to the CAC do not mirror the process for other boards and the Commission was written with appointments based on school or university versus by Council District. As of April 2025, three of the schools named in the City Code as it relates to the CAC are no longer in operation, making full appointment to CAC a technical impossibility. Staff recommend reviewing these requirements to consider aligning with the district-based appointments as in other boards and commissions with a special qualification for college or university enrollment.

OHCE aims to collaborate with commissions to fulfill the office’s mission to enhance quality of life for all Dallas residents by coordinating housing, social, and human services

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to reduce homelessness, expand affordable housing, and promote upward economic mobility through collaborative, data-informed strategies.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or Thor Erickson, Director, Office of Housing and Community Empowerment at 214-670-3632. or [thor.erickson@dallas.gov](mailto:thor.erickson@dallas.gov).

Service First, Now!



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

c: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager  
Bertram Vandenberg, City Attorney (I)  
Mamatha Sparks, City Auditor (I)  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)  
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety  
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager  
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager  
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager  
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
John Johnson, Chief of Real Estate  
Directors and Assistant Directors

**Attachments A: Council Approved Policies Adopting Commissions**