



City of Dallas

Youth Strategic Plan

**Workforce, Equity and
Education Committee**
5/12/2025

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City of Dallas

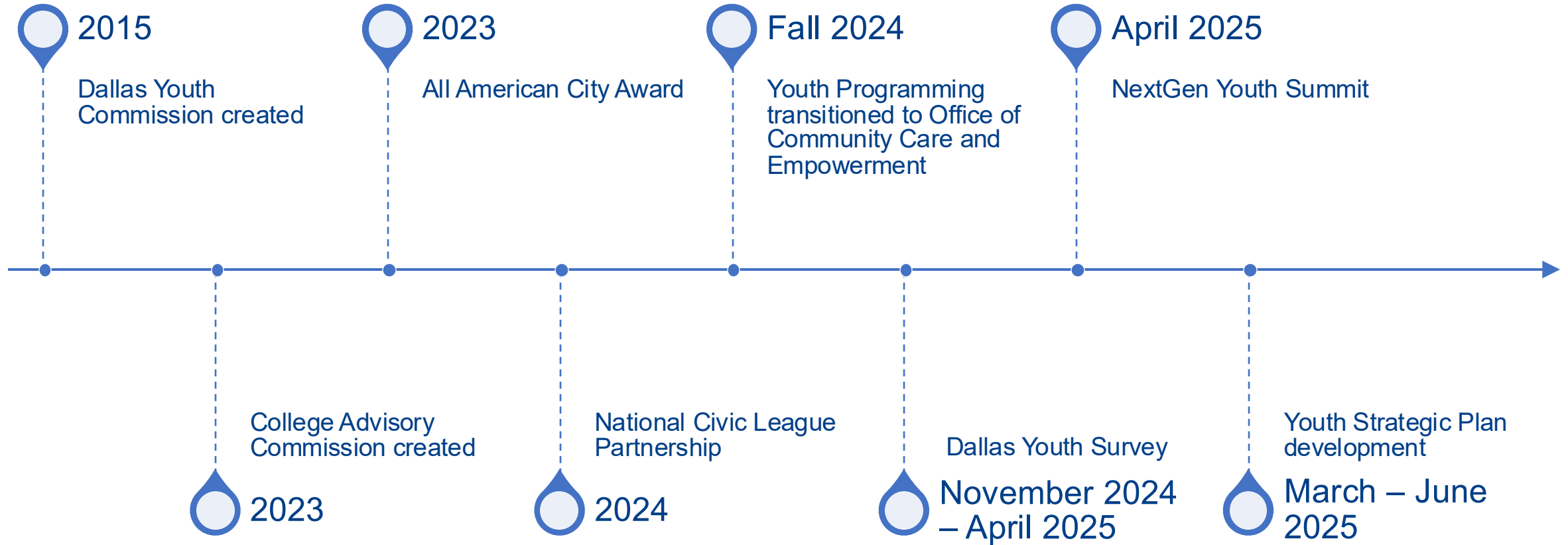
Presentation Overview



- City of Dallas Youth Programming
- Dallas Youth Survey Insights
- Youth Strategic Planning Background and Inputs
- Youth Strategic Plan Priorities
- Youth Strategic Planning Timeline
- Youth Strategic Planning Partners



Youth Engagement Background



Youth Programming Alignment



Youth Strategic Plan Priority	Youth Perspective Area	City Operational Priority	City Foundational Structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Safety and Resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socioeconomic Challenges • School and Neighborhood Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety • Homelessness and Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe • Vibrant • Growing • Livable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Opportunity and Economic Mobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socioeconomic Challenges • Advanced Education and Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Economic Growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant • Growing • Livable • Sustainable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Civic Engagement and Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic and Community Engagement • Recreation, Outdoor Activities and Environment • Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic City Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livable • Sustainable • Fiscally Sound • Core



Youth Programming within City of Dallas



- Dallas Park and Recreation (PKR)
- Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI)
- Dallas Public Library (DPL)
- Office of Arts and Culture (OAC)
- Dallas Police Department (DPD)
- Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS)



Demographics of Dallas Youth



Demographic Estimates - City of Dallas Youth and Young Adults

City of Dallas Youth and Young Adult Population (14-24 years)	194,080
Percentage American Indian Alaska Native Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	1%
Percentage Asian Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	3%
Percentage Black African American Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	20%
Percentage Other or Multiple Race Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	36%
Percentage White Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	38%
Percentage Hispanic or Latino Youth and Young Adults (14-24 years)	55%
Percentage of Children Under 18 Years Old with Family Income Below Poverty	25%
Percentage of Youth and Young Adults in Poverty (14-24 years)	22%
Percentage of City Householders Under 25 Years Old	6%
Median Income of Householders Under 25 Years Old	\$42,440
Percentage of Householders Under 25 Years Old with Annual Income Less Than \$50,000	57%

Source : Estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023) American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables for Ages 14-24; Under 25 Years Old; Children Under 18 Years Old. "Dallas City, Texas." <https://data.census.gov/all?g=160XX00US4819000>



Dallas Youth Survey Results



Developed by staff and Dallas Youth Commission, with support from National Civic League, the Dallas Youth Survey was launched in October 2024.

- Over 4,300 responses received
- Survey aligned around 6 key areas:
 - Community and Civic Engagement
 - Recreation, Outdoor Activities and Environment
 - Socioeconomic Challenges
 - Transportation
 - Advanced Education and Employment
 - School and Neighborhood Safety



Key Findings: Community and Civic Engagement



Community and Civic Engagement

Government, politics and civic issues:

- Most respondents report a moderate, yet genuine, interest in government, politics and civic issues
- 54% of respondents state they never or rarely engage in political discussions

Areas of interest:

- 87% said they care about reducing poverty
- 25% believe climate change is a very big issue, and 53% said that climate change is a major issue but not the biggest

Local/National Political Representation:

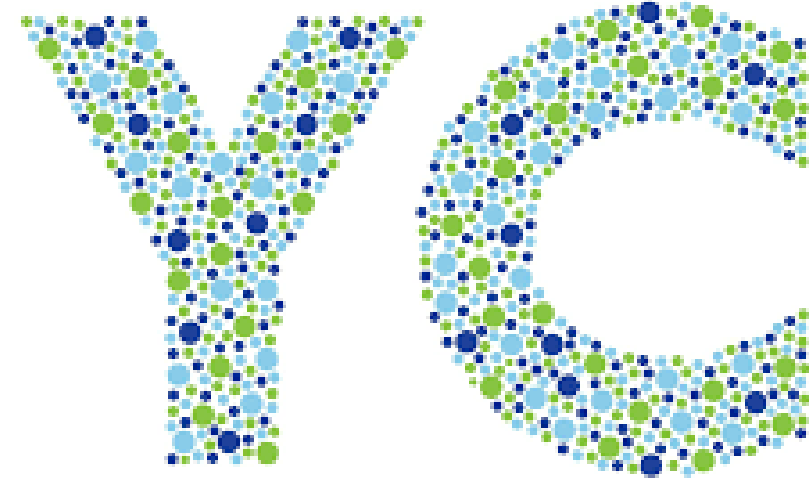
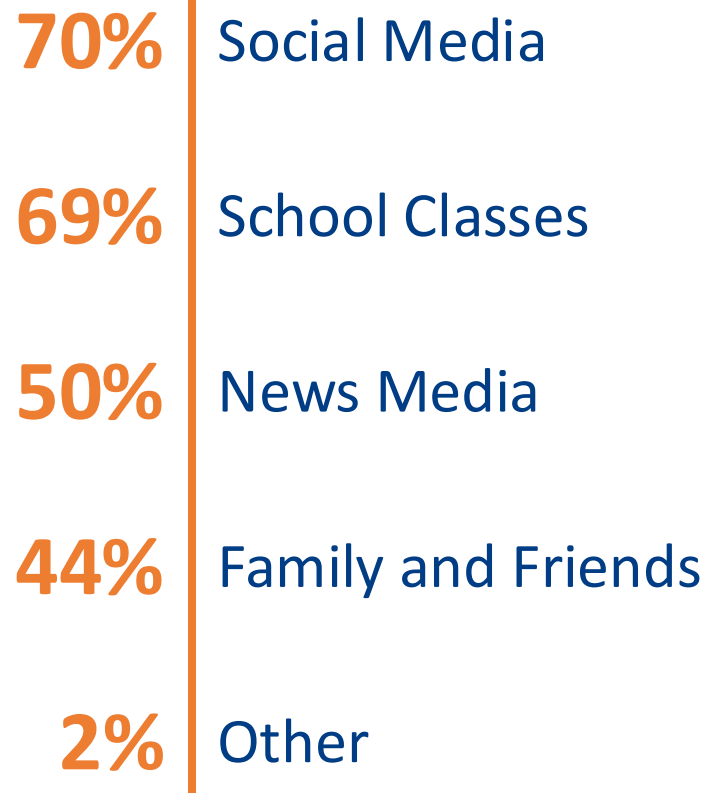
- 40% do not know their council district
- 76% do not know their Congressional district
- 48% said they were somewhat familiar with their elected officials and 6% said they were very familiar



Where do you learn about government, politics and civic issues?



Total percentage of respondents who selected (respondents were able to select multiple):



THE YOUTH COMMISSION
City of Dallas



Key Finding: Recreation and Outdoor Activities



Recreation and Outdoor Activities

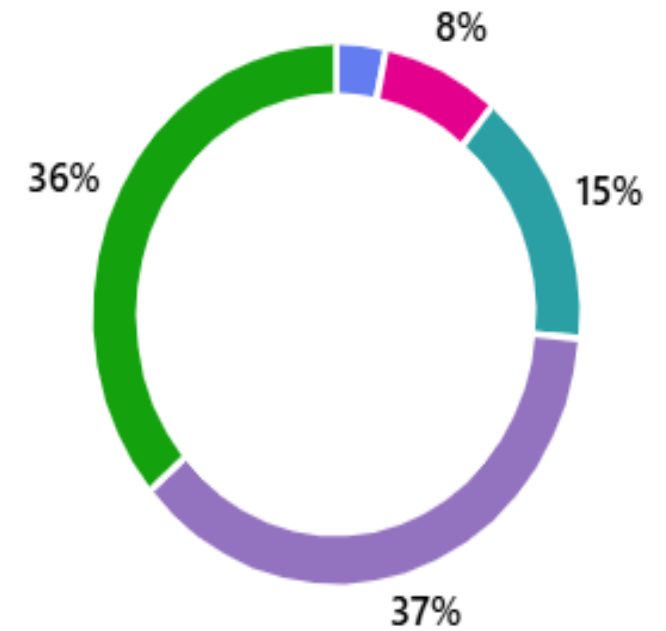
- 27% state they visit parks, lakes and trails in their communities weekly
- Respondents highlighted chess, gaming, STEAM, summer sports camps, more fitness activities, and more athletic activities like pickleball, volleyball, ping pong, boxing, etc. as activities they would like to see offered at recreation centers



How often do you go to recreation centers in your community?



● Daily	143
● Weekly	338
● Monthly	672
● Rarely	1632
● Never	1582



Key Findings: Socioeconomic Challenges



Socioeconomic Challenges

- 55% reported being directly or indirectly impacted by poverty
- 34% reported having experienced or known someone who experienced homelessness or housing insecurity

Taking on adult responsibilities

- 31% reported they regularly translate for parents who are non-English speakers
- 16% reported working part time jobs to help cover household expenses
- 10% reported that they help pay bills or help manage family finances

Hardships

- 6% report occasionally skipping meals due to food insecurity
- 5% report dealing with unreliable utilities at home (e.g., water, electric)
- 4% reported moving frequently due to unaffordable housing



Key Findings: Transportation



Transportation

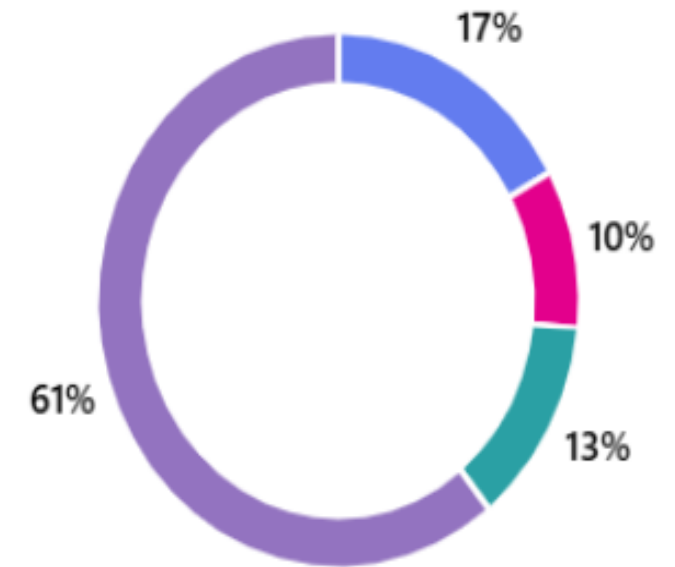
- 57% of youth respondents believe that it is important to ensure public transit is accessible and available to teens in the community
- 28% use public transit for work, school and errands
- 27% reported discomfort using public transit, citing safety concerns as the primary reason



How often do you use public transportation?



● Daily	744
● Weekly	419
● Monthly	552
● Yearly	2652





Advanced Education and Employment

- Most respondents have plans for after high school
 - 57% plan to further their education
 - 13% plan to enter the workforce
- 57% said they have support from parents or guardians to pursue educational goals



Do you know how to prepare a resume?



● Yes	2148
● No	2219



Key Findings: School and Neighborhood Safety



School and Neighborhood Safety

Youth expressed a variety of concerns related to community and school safety

Primary issues in neighborhoods

- Dirty streets and sidewalks
- Unsafe streets and sidewalks
- Maintenance of public spaces
- 54% believe better streetlights could improve safety
- 36% believe increased policing could improve safety
- 34% believe more youth programs could improve safety
- Generally, respondents report feeling safe in school environments, noting security measures like guards, cameras and metal detectors as contributing safety
- 57% believe that better student support and resources could improve safety



The City's Role – Anchoring the Anchors



- City of Dallas is a key community anchor institution
- Convening Power – the City can partner with and align with other anchor institutions and community-based organizations
- Dallas Youth Collaborative – collaborative of youth-serving organizations launched in November 2024 to convene youth serving organizations and anchors
- Dallas Youth Safety Collaborative – grew out of NLC partnership for Reimagining Municipal Public Safety, led by Lone Star Justice Alliance



Youth Strategic Plan Process



Review data from Dallas Youth Survey, Dallas Youth Commission, demographics and need, and Dallas Youth Safety Collaborative Strategic Plan



Compile information on all City youth-focused or youth-targeted programs



Align around strategic priorities that fit the role, function and strengths of the City of Dallas



Development of Draft Strategic Plan with input from numerous City departments, as well as several core strategic partners



Feedback on identified priorities from Workforce Education and Equity Committee, Dallas Youth Commission and College Advisory Commission members



Planning and goalsetting session with Dallas Youth Collaborative partners



Final approval / adoption Summer 2025



Strategic Plan Guideposts



- Targeting ages 14-24
- Organization-wide document focused on defining role of the City within the youth services ecosystem
- Relies on the City as an anchor institution rather than a primary service provider (services provided by City must align with City operational priorities)

Youth Strategic Plan Priorities



Priority 1: Youth Safety and Resilience

Priority 2: Youth Opportunity and Economic Mobility

Priority 3: Youth Civic Infrastructure and Engagement



Priority 1: Youth Safety and Resilience



Focus Areas:

1. Dallas Youth Safety Collaborative Strategic Plan – align with Lone Star Justice Alliance as backbone for implementation of YSCSP
2. Data-Driven Youth Safety and Violence Prevention
3. Wraparound Support for Youth and Families

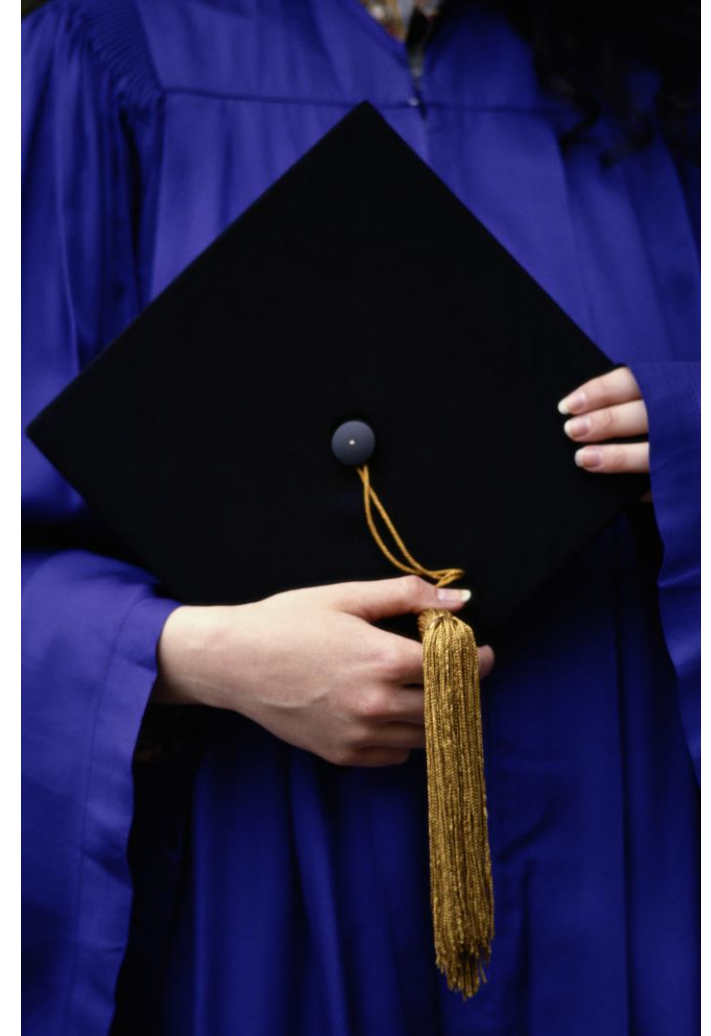


Priority 2: Youth Opportunity and Economic Mobility



Focus Areas:

1. Reach Youth Citywide by expanding and aligning City resources
2. Advance Mentorship and Workforce Development Opportunities
3. Unlocking “Opportunity Youth” Potential in the Digital Economy
4. Bridging Financial Empowerment from Generation to Generation



Priority 3: Youth Civic Infrastructure and Engagement

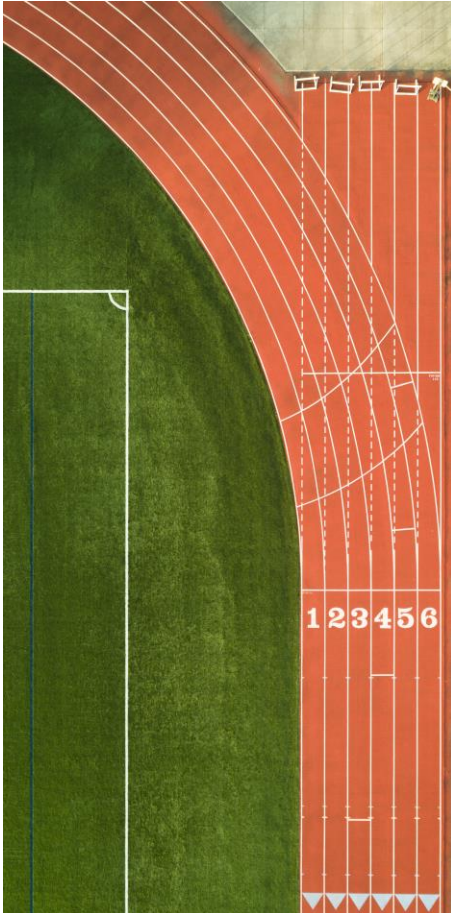


Focus Areas:

1. City of Dallas Commissions
2. Youth Engagement
3. Volunteerism and Civic Engagement



NEXT STEPS



- Feedback from Workforce, Education and Equity Committee
- Feedback from Dallas Youth Commission
- Feedback from College Advisory Commission members
- Integrate insights from Youth Summit
- Reconvene Dallas Youth Collaborative for plan discussions
- Final draft / final approval – Summer 2025



Youth Strategic Plan

**Workforce, Equity and
Education Committee**
5/12/2025

The logo of the City of Dallas, featuring a stylized white 'D' on a dark blue background. Inside the 'D' is a white three-leaf plant. To the left of the 'D' are three horizontal white lines.

City of Dallas

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