

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 12, 2024  
HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE WORKFORCE, EDUCATION, AND EQUITY COMMITTEE: Jaynie Schultz  
TO (Chair), Carolyn King Arnold (Vice Chair), Adam Bazaldua, Paula Blackmon, Jaime Resendez, Paul Ridley, Gay Donnell Willis  
SUBJECT **College Advisory Commission Update Regarding Appointments and Recruitment Efforts and Civic Analysis Project**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the College Advisory Commission (CAC). The College Advisory Commission is committed to creating a supportive environment for Dallas college students. Our mission is to address their diverse needs and challenges by advocating for policies that enhance their quality of life. Through collaboration and community engagement, we aim to empower the next generation and contribute to the cultural and economic vibrancy of Dallas.

## **Background:**

On May 8, 2023, the Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee was briefed and recommended City Council support for the creation of the CAC. On June 28, 2023, the Dallas City Council approved agenda item #7, an ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Dallas City Code establishing the creation of the CAC, it was then formalized as part of the FY 24 budget approved on September 20, 2023. Moving forward, The CAC will serve a full year term beginning each January and advise Dallas City Council on topics impacting college students, review local policies, propose and support collegiate engagement in city programs, and provide opportunities for students to contribute to the city's culture, economy, and character.

## **Recruitment Efforts:**

On February 14, the appointment of the following seven students will be on the agenda for City Council consideration:

Angelica Barrera  
Max Brenner  
Tamal Pilla  
Sequena Alexander  
Nancy Galarza  
Criswell College Selection  
Paul Quinn Selection

While sixteen universities were initially invited, only seven decided to participate this year. The decision of several universities not to participate in the CAC this year can be

attributed to a combination of factors primarily, a lack of interest among students due to their focus on academic commitments, as well as areas of study that fall outside of the commission's mission, making it challenging for them to engage actively in the CAC.

Additionally, some universities faced difficulty meeting the age and residence requirements of the program, as the demographics of their student populations did not align with the criteria set by the CAC ordinance. Moreover, the absence of on-campus students due to building closures and virtual learning at many universities posed a challenge in recruiting suitable representatives, as the program aims to include students actively involved in the campus community. These challenges, and the closure of one of the selected universities, contributed to a reduced number of participating universities this year. However, all universities will still have opportunities throughout the year to appoint students to the CAC as they identify suitable candidates who can effectively represent their schools on the commission.

### **Civic Analysis Project:**

The Civic Analysis Project is a multi-faceted initiative that combines research, stakeholder engagement, and innovative problem-solving to contribute substantial recommendations for the betterment of college student life in Dallas. The goal is not only to identify challenges but also to present practical solutions that can be implemented for the benefit of the community. Our Civic Analysis Project seeks to enhance the quality of life for college students in Dallas through:

- **City Review:** CAC will conduct an in-depth examination of existing programs and organizations related to their chosen focus area. The goal is to identify both challenges and successful interventions from similar urban settings, creating a foundation for informed decision-making.
- **Policy Analysis:** An evaluation of current policies and practices in Dallas, this analysis aims to identify gaps and areas for improvement, ensuring that recommendations put forth by the CAC align with the broader policy landscape of the city.
- **Engagement:** Engaging with key stakeholders, including college students, city officials, community leaders, and subject matter experts. This engagement allows for the gathering of diverse perspectives and insights, ensuring that the recommendations are reflective of the varied needs and experiences of the community.
- **Innovative Solutions:** CAC members will propose practical and innovative solutions to address the identified challenges. By exploring creative and forward-

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thinking approaches, the CAC aims to contribute meaningful enhancements to the quality of life for college students.

Staff will provide another update to the Committee no later than June 2024 once the Commission has begun their work. Please feel free to contact me or Taylor Moody, Partnership & Engagement Coordinator at [taylor.moody@dallas.gov](mailto:taylor.moody@dallas.gov) should you have any additional questions or concerns.



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