



# Memorandum

DATE February 28, 2020

CITY OF DALLAS

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT **Police Academy**

Over the past year, as well as during the recent City Council retreat, there were several comments and suggestions by Council Members of the need to improve the Dallas Police Training Academy. As an emerging priority for the City Council, staff has been working to assess the issues and challenges of the current training facility and recently has had several conversations with the University of North Texas at Dallas (UNT) about a collaborative opportunity to create a modern police training facility.

Prior to 1990, the DPD academy was located at Bachman Lake. In 1990, Dallas Love Field Airport expanded into the Bachman Lake area which required relocation of the Academy to a 31,050 square foot facility at 5310 Redbird Center Drive. At the time, this facility housed both the training academy for new recruits as well as ongoing in-service training. DPD currently leases this facility as the move to Redbird Center was originally intended to be an interim solution.

Shortly after relocating in 1990, DPD quickly outgrew this facility as the department substantially increased its hiring for sworn positions and both the number of academy classes and the number of recruits per class increased. In 2012, DPD expanded the operations by leasing another 27,067 square feet at 5610 Redbird Center Drive to house the in-service training programs. The current cost of both leases is approximately \$1 million dollars per year.

A summary of issues and challenges related to the current training academy are listed below.

- The size of both facilities is inadequate to meet the current demand for training
- Parking spots are limited, and lots must be routinely cleared to serve as a track for conducting the academy's pursuit driver training
- Insufficient storage for training equipment
- Insufficient number of water fountains available for recruits
- Insufficient locker room size and available showers, especially for the number of female recruits/officers
- The facilities lack a dedicated break room
- Inadequate space to efficiently provide the academy's reality-based training to officers and recruits
- Classrooms are too small to accommodate growing number of recruits
- Driving track does not resemble that of a real city roadway
- Lack of jogging track and field for required physical training
- Deteriorating conditions of facility
- Breakroom, restroom and shower plumbing issues
- Weight room is too small for housing equipment and space is limited for training recruits

This briefing memo is to inform the Public Safety Committee of this project and to seek your input and feedback as we move forward in discussions with UNTD. Pursuing this collaborative opportunity with UNTD will result in improving the Dallas Police Academy operations and training conditions. Comparative university affiliated police academies across the nation have the advantage of benefitting from the academic and research resources available to large educational institutions. This type of officer training model serves to prepare a workplace-ready police force, making the department competitive in recruitment and retention, and will allow the Dallas Police Department to obtain highly specialized training that prioritizes the critical roles and tenants of 21<sup>st</sup> century modern policing.

Dallas Police Department would like to offer City Council Members a tour of the Dallas Police Academy to demonstrate the facility's current state of operations. Additionally, the tour will include a visit to the City of Fort Worth's training facility, which represents a modern and effective model for police training. DPD is coordinating with the City of Fort Worth and staff will be in contact with you soon for scheduling.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.



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