



Memorandum

DATE February 28, 2020

CITY OF DALLAS

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT **Low Sterrett Jail Contract**

On November 22, 1978, the City of Dallas contracted with Dallas County to utilize the county jail to process and maintain city jail prisoners. Since then, the Low Sterrett Jail Contract has been amended four times with the last amendment in 1997. As a result, Court & Detention Services has had discussions with Dallas County to reevaluate the terms of the contract. The expectation is to develop a contract that increases transparency of the contract terms, replaces outdated language to reflect current jail operations, and incorporates audit recommendations made by the City Auditor.

After several meetings, the City and Dallas County mutually agreed to utilize GMJ, an independent firm, to assist in updating the terms of the contract. GMJ has extensive knowledge of jail operation systems and will act as a third-party to conduct peer research, review other city-county agreements and identify best practices. City staff is scheduled to meet with GMJ in early March. The goal is to incorporate their recommendations into the FY2020-21 contract year.

Additionally, the Public Safety Committee Chair has requested for city staff to coordinate a tour of Low Sterrett Jail. The purpose of the tour is to provide the Public Safety Committee with a demonstration of the jail's current operations. City staff will be reaching out to you soon for scheduling.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Jon Fortune
Assistant City Manager

cc:

T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizar Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors