

# Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee Meeting Record

The Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee meetings are recorded.  
Agenda materials are available online at [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com). Recordings may be reviewed online at <https://dallastx.swagit.com/city-council>  
Note: This meeting was conducted via teleconference to comply with a social distancing mandate during a declared state of disaster.

**Meeting Date:** December 14, 2020

**Convened:** 9:00 a.m.

**Adjourned:** 10:17 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

CM Casey Thomas, Chair  
CM Jaime Resendez, Vice Chair  
MPT Adam Medrano  
CM Lee Kleinman  
CM Paula Blackmon

**Committee Members Absent:**

N/A

**Other Council Members Present:**

## **AGENDA**

Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)

## **BRIEFING ITEMS**

**A. Approval of the November 9, 2020 Workforce, Education and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** A motion was made to approve the minutes for the November 9, 2020 Workforce, Education and Equity Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Vice Chair Resendez

Motion seconded by: MPT Adam Medrano

**B. Workforce: Overview of Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas' Initiatives - Workforce 2020, Reimagine 2021**

**Presenters:** Laurie Larrea, President, Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Ms. Larrea provided an overview of the Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas' (WFS) efforts to advance workforce development during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also discussed key strategies that WFS will pursue in 2021, including training thousands of unemployed workers for in-demand logistics jobs. Committee members asked questions about how WFS is preparing graduating high school students for the job market, the Dallas Thrives initiative, how the City can support workforce development, plans for the first quarter of 2021 to bridge disparities in workforce development efforts, and more. Information only.

**C. Amendment to the Dallas City Code to Create a Veterans Affairs Commission**

**Presenters:** Laura Morrison, Sr. Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; LaToya Jackson, Human Rights Officer, Office of Equity and Inclusion

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Sr. Assistant City Attorney Morrison and Officer Jackson provided an overview of a draft ordinance that would establish a Veteran Affairs Commission. The Commission will represent the city's military veteran community and is tasked with:

- Evaluating and recommending programs, policies, and practices designed to alleviate veterans' difficulties in meeting basic needs, obtaining housing, employment, and mental health assistance;
- Gathering information relating to the status of veterans in the Dallas community;
- Accumulating information about the needs of veterans in Dallas and make recommendations to the city council regarding these needs;
- Recommending ways to educate the community on the status of veterans rights, needs, and contributions;

- Recommending ways to promote awareness of veterans' full potential and the importance of veterans' contribution to the community;
- Identifying and review the entire range of services available to veterans, and recommend ways to:
  - strengthen existing services and pursue new services;
  - promote collaboration between service providers; and
  - expand resources available to veterans.

Chair Thomas recommended that the ordinance be edited to require the commission to have at least four members that have actively served in the U.S. military, as opposed to two members. Vice Chair Resendez asked questions about the steps to create the commission and the role that the Veterans Employee Resource Group plays in this commission and had a conversation around the term "reservist" and "actively serving" in the military. CM Kleinman asked which department will manage the commission, if the Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs division is supporting these efforts, and what the budget and fiscal note is for the commission. Chair Thomas concluded the discussion by requesting staff to share the ordinance with the Mayor and City Council for feedback and that the amendment be placed on the second voting agenda in January 2021 for Council approval.

Adjourn (10:17 a.m.)

**APPROVED BY:**

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**Casey Thomas, Chair**  
**Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee**

**ATTESTED BY:**

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**Sommer Iqbal, Coordinator**  
**Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee**