

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 10, 2021

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT **Overview of Process to Review Dallas Police Department's Data Storage Needs**

The Dallas Police Department in conjunction with the Dallas Information and Technology Services (ITS) Department agree that the Dallas Police Department needs a more capable and robust technology solution to collect, review, manage and store its electronic information.

The current data-retaining technology solution utilized by the Department involves various platforms piecemealed through time based on the emerging needs of the Department. This piecemeal approach results in gaps and workarounds in the overall process which introduce risks and inefficiencies. Additionally, DPD has seen massive growth in the volume of electronic evidentiary data for which the Department is obligated to create and retain as a matter of justice, professional standard, and requirements by law. With this increase of data, DPD will also need to evaluate the current and future network and data storage infrastructure to ensure stability over time as the demand increases.

In the next 30 days, the Dallas Police Department will convene a workgroup comprised of DPD, ITS and other City personnel for the purposes of conducting a comprehensive review of DPD data collection and storage needs. The workgroup will conduct market research and engage with vendors to develop a complete assessment, generate a long-term plan with a target budget and milestones. The workgroup plans to issue a report by February 2022 and brief the Public Safety Committee thereafter.

Additionally, the Department must create internal processes in investigations, records, and police technology that concentrate on data collection and processing into one comprehensive platform. The document retention policy and the digital retention policy must be improved and created, respectively, so that all working groups help manage the data generated. The amount of data the Department must create, collect, process, and retain will continue to grow exponentially. It is inevitable because it is required.

In the short term, as the workgroup completes its review and formulates its recommendations, the most crucial solution the Department needs is the 3rd party data storage capable of retaining additional data collected during an investigation. This solution, which is 100 terabytes of storage space, is budgeted to be purchased this FY2021-2022 through the existing Administrative Agreement. Furthermore, this 3rd party data storage will allow the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and the other four District Attorney's to access it. This short-term enhancement will provide incremental improvement in the DPD evidence collection and sharing process.

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We look forward to providing a briefing to the public safety committee in the first quarter of 2022 with a comprehensive assessment, time frame to implement new solutions, and a five-year plan that evolves every year to analyze its progress properly.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.



Eddie Garcia
Chief of Police

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
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Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
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Directors and Assistant Directors