

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 14, 2015

TO Housing Committee Members: Scott Griggs, Chair, Carolyn King Arnold, Vice-Chair, Monica R. Alonzo, Tiffinni A. Young, Mark Clayton, and Casey Thomas, II

SUBJECT The Bridge Our Way Back Home

On Monday, August 17, 2015, you will be briefed on The Bridge Our Way Back Home. A copy of the briefing is attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theresa O'Donnell".

Theresa O'Donnell
Chief Planning Officer

c: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A. C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig Kinton, City Auditor
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P. E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and Council



**City of Dallas
Housing Committee Briefing**

August 17, 2015

History – Pre-Opening

- 2003
 - Private and local government leaders determine that Dallas should devise strategies to:
 - Increase shelter capacity to meet the outstanding needs of adults experiencing homelessness
 - Establish a recovery-oriented system of care for people at-risk of or already experiencing long-term homelessness
 - Dallas voters approve a \$3 million bond referendum to begin the planning process for development of a multi-service campus for homeless services.
- 2005
 - Led by a task force of business executives, advocates and philanthropists, Dallas voters support a \$23.8 million bond referendum to fund the construction of The Bridge.

History – Post Opening (2008)

- 2009
 - State of Texas works with The Bridge/City of Dallas/Dallas County to establish state-wide Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) expanding related activities in our area and throughout the state.
- 2011
 - Campus wins Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence
- 2014
 - State of Texas recognizes The Bridge as an exemplary Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) and provides grant funding for services expansion through establishment of Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) program.
 - New entrance/intake building constructed and emergency shelter renovated

Corporate Profile

- The Bridge represents Dallas' commitment to providing assistance and recovery services to its most disadvantaged residents.
- The Bridge is a nonprofit organization that provides services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and employs more than 100 people.
- The Bridge's leadership team includes a board of community leaders and founding lead executive Jay Dunn.

Coordinated Services

- For the majority of adults experiencing homelessness in Dallas:
 - Triage
 - Jail diversion/reentry
 - Medical/behavioral health care
 - Day shelter
- Additionally, for the majority of adults experiencing or at-risk of experiencing long-term homelessness in Dallas:
 - Night shelter
 - Recreational/educational
 - Employment income/supported employment income/disability income
 - Affordable housing/supportive housing

Collaborative Network

- Austin Street Center
- City of Dallas
- Dallas County
- Dallas Housing Authority
- Dallas LIFE
- Dallas Fire-Rescue
- Dallas Police Department
- First Presbyterian Church/The Stewpot
- Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas
- Lifenet Texas/Metrocare Services
- Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance member organizations
- Parkland Health & Hospital System
- The Salvation Army
- Union Gospel Mission
- Veterans Affairs
- Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

Contributions

- Funding from the City of Dallas now accounts for less than 40 percent of the annual budget of this public-private partnership.
- Volunteers and executives work diligently to steward valuable relationships with philanthropists, foundations, Dallas County, the State of Texas and the federal government to ensure that more than 60 percent of contributions are consistent and steadfast.

Accomplishments

- Reductions in homelessness
 - Serving more than 7,000 people experiencing homelessness per year, the majority of whom transition out of our collaborative network rapidly
- Reductions in long-term homelessness
 - More than 2,000 job placements for people experiencing or at-risk of experiencing long-term homelessness
 - More than 2,000 housing placements for people experiencing or at-risk of experiencing long-term homelessness
- Collaborating to help reduce surrounding area crime
 - Serious crime (Part I offenses) downtown has dropped 49 percent since The Bridge opened, according to Dallas Police Department data.
 - Homeless jail stays have been significantly reduced resulting in millions of dollars of cost benefits, according to Dallas County Criminal Justice data.

Accomplishments (Cont.)

- Collaborating to help develop surrounding area
- Supported by the Downtown Residents Council and downtown corporations through fundraising and other volunteer activities
- Supported by Dallas voters
 - Overwhelmingly approved two bond referendums that funded The Bridge's development
 - A survey in April 2015 of registered voters by *The Dallas Morning News* indicated that more residents favor reducing funding for law enforcement and parks than cuts to homeless services should the City of Dallas' budget need to be reduced.

Challenges

- Lack of affordable and supportive housing:
 - Forty-eight percent of renters in Dallas are living in housing that is unaffordable given their income.
 - The Bridge is endeavoring to continue to partner with organizations and government agencies to increase developments inclusive of affordable housing and link such developments to support services for people with long-term needs.
- Increasing poverty:
 - Twenty-two percent of Dallas residents are living in poverty.
 - The Bridge is working to increasingly partner with contributors and agencies to expand services, programs, facilities and other related assets in order to sustain positive impacts in light of increasing community needs.

Questions/Comments

