

# Memorandum



DATE May 15, 2017

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee:  
Adam Medrano (Chair), B. Adam McGough (Vice Chair), Sandy Greyson, Tiffinni A. Young,  
Jennifer S. Gates, Philip T. Kingston

SUBJECT **Pilot Panhandling Initiative**

On May 24, 2017, the Dallas City Council will consider authorizing a six-month contract for a pilot program with The Way Back House, Inc to provide case management and day labor employment services designed to reduce panhandling in Dallas. The pilot program contract includes a six-month renewal option.

On December 12, 2016, the Pilot Panhandling Initiative was briefed to the Public Safety Committee. The Committee recommended the implementation of a pilot program to reduce panhandling. Following that briefing, Business Development and Procurement Services solicited proposals and received responses from The Way Back House, Inc. and the South Dallas/Fair Park Public Improvement District. The successful proposer was The Way Back House, Inc.

Way Back House, Inc. will identify and provide outreach services to up to 100 individuals who are panhandling in the city. Over the course of the pilot program they aim to have 10% of those in the pilot program enroll in job training programs; 25% reach stable employment; 25% find permanent or supportive housing; and 25% access other needed social services. The Way Back House intends to accomplish this through a paid day labor and lunch program they will offer to identified individuals who panhandle. Way Back House case managers will recruit participants then gather, report, and analyze data regarding participants, services, and results. The Way Back House, Inc., currently operates an ex-offender re-entry resource center at 1804 Market Center Blvd. and has experience working with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and Texas Workforce Solutions.

In addition to providing oversight to this pilot program, City Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization department staff will work with the City Attorney's Office to review current ordinances prohibiting various solicitations (panhandling) for effectiveness. They will also partner with the Public Information Office to create an awareness campaign that encourages compassionate residents to donate to charitable organizations, rather than to individuals who panhandle. Following analysis of the pilot program's initial results, staff will provide a recommendation on the renewal option.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

  
Cheritta Johnson  
Interim Chief of Community Services

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Larry Casto, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services  
Jo M. (Jody) Puckett, P.E., Interim Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience  
Directors and Assistant Directors