

Memorandum



DATE September 5, 2017

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee:
B. Adam McGough (Chair), Philip T. Kingston (Vice Chair),
Jennifer S. Gates (Domestic Violence Task Force Chair), MPT Dwaine R. Caraway,
DMPT Adam Medrano, Sandy Greyson, Kevin Felder

SUBJECT **Pilot Panhandling Initiative**

On Monday, September 11, 2017, you will be updated on the Pilot Panhandling Initiative by Interim Director Cheritta Johnson, Office of Community Care. The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.



Jon Fortune
Assistant City Manager

[Attachment]

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

Jo M. (Jody) Puckett, Assistant City Manager (Interim)
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Chief of Community Services
Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services
Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience
Directors and Assistant Directors

Pilot Panhandling Initiative

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

September 11, 2017

**Cheritta Johnson, Interim Director
Office of Community Care
City of Dallas**



City of Dallas

Presentation Overview

- Purpose
- Background/History
- Panhandling Campaign
- Next Steps

Background/History

- September 2016, City Council authorized a pilot panhandling initiative program
- December 2016, the Proposed Panhandling Initiative was briefed to the Public Safety Committee. The committee recommended the implementation of the pilot program to reduce panhandling.
- January/February 2017, staff conducted community outreach

Background/History

- March 2017, initiated procurement process
- The Way Back House, Inc. was the recommended vendor
- May 2017, the City Council rejected Staff's recommendation and requested additional research
- June 2017, Council received memo outlining next steps for the pilot panhandling initiative program
- From June to present, staff researched and benchmarked the following cities
 - Albuquerque, NM
 - Atlanta, GA
 - San Antonio, TX
 - Memphis
 - Wichita

Panhandling in Dallas

- Reports generated from 311 indicate from October 2016 to July 2017 there have been 1,385 service requests with locations concentrated in or around Downtown and major thoroughfares.
 - Of the 1,385 service requests received, 38% were reported from January 1 – July 14, 2017 within the following concentrated areas:
 - District 2 (139)
 - District 7 (44)
 - District 10 (88)
 - District 13 (124)
 - District 14 (125)

Panhandling - Challenges

- Public Policy
- Enforcement vs. Diversion
- Current and Future Fiscal Impact

Other Considerations

- Determine appropriate Strategic Priority administration
- Benchmark current panhandling data and provide baseline information to determine future effectiveness of the program
- Develop a program structure that will include guidelines for targeted areas, staffing, services, goals and performance measures
- Update Public Safety Committee by October 2017

Pilot Panhandling Initiative

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

September 11, 2017

**Cheritta Johnson, Interim Director
Office of Community Care
City of Dallas**



City of Dallas