

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 19, 2019

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

SUBJECT **Dallas Fire-Rescue Blocker Program**

The pilot program to utilize “Blocker” apparatus on freeway incidents was instituted by Dallas Fire-Rescue on April 1, 2019. The 3-month trial is designed to mitigate the danger to personnel and equipment in areas identified as high-risk locations for fire apparatus being struck. Blocker 1, running out of Station 43, responds to incidents on I-35, north and south bound, from West Mockingbird Lane up to I-635. Blocker 2, currently running out of Station 6 (moving to Station 19 after station renovations), will respond to incidents on I-30, east and west bound, from 1st Avenue to Jim Miller Road.

Since the program’s inception, Blocker 1 has responded to 56 incidents and Blocker 2 has responded to 62 incidents. On April 2, 2019, brand new Truck 19 (at an equipment cost of \$1.3 million) went into service. Six days later, on April 8, 2019, Blocker 2 was hit while providing protection at an incident where Truck 19 was on scene. The blocker did its intended duty in protecting our first responders, our emergency equipment, and any residents on scene.

The pilot program has already been viewed as a successful initiative within the department. Expectations have been exceeded, with members reporting feeling safer on scene, while DFR apparatus receive better protection. In just over 2 weeks, the blockers have provided safety at 118 incidents, reducing risks considerably. We look forward to much more anticipated success with the DFR Blocker Program, and appreciate our city officials working with us to provide Dallas with the kind of service and safety it deserves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Artis'.

Dominique Artis, Fire Chief
Dallas Fire-Rescue Department

- c:
- | | |
|--|---|
| T.C Broadnax, City Manager | Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager |
| Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim) | Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer |
| Billierae Johnson, City Secretary | Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services |
| Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge | M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer |
| Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager | Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer |
| Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager | Directors and Assistant Directors |
| Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager | |