

LAURA MILLER  
MAYOR



CITY OF DALLAS

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **HAPPY 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY DALLAS!**

#### **Mayor declares February “Sesquicentennial Month”**

One hundred and fifty years ago today, the village of Dallas officially became the town of Dallas. On February 2, 1856, the state of Texas granted a charter to the small community of about five hundred people.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of this historic event, Mayor Laura Miller has declared February “Sesquicentennial Month” in the city of Dallas. On Wednesday, she and the Council marked the occasion with a [proclamation presentation to the citizens of Dallas](#).

City Archivist John Slate has the responsibility of managing and preserving all 150 years worth of Dallas’ governmental history.

“Although Dallas was nominally founded in 1841 after John Neely Bryan settled on the east bank of the Trinity River, there was no formal municipal government to make or administer laws, no manner for raising funds to build streets or bridges, and perhaps most importantly, no provision for public safety,” Slate said.

The charter changed all of that. The charter was issued on February 2nd and the first election (for mayor, a board of six aldermen, recorder, treasurer, and constable) was held on April 5th.

To celebrate Sesquicentennial Month, the Texas/Dallas History & Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library and the Dallas Municipal Archives of the City Secretary’s Office have teamed up and put together a special exhibit called *\*Dallas Spirit: 150 Years of City Government 1856-2006\** that chronicles Dallas’ governmental history, how it has changed over time, its legendary events and figures.

Rare and important archival documents from the two archives collections, including photographs and rarely seen documents from the 1860s onward highlight the city’s unique story. Other highlights include a street light and a parking meter from the 1950’s, and a wooden brick (made from bois d’arc tree) that was used to pave streets circa 1890.

The exhibit is in two halves:

- one half will run from February 2-March 6th in Dallas City Hall-1<sup>st</sup> floor;
- the other half will run from February 2-March 31 Central Library's Texas/Dallas History & Archives Division—7<sup>th</sup> floor.

City Hall and the Central Library are located across the street from each other:

City Hall  
1500 Marilla Street  
Dallas, TX 75201

Dallas Central Library  
1515 Young Street  
Dallas, TX 75201

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