

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 19, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update on 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week**

This memo is to provide an update on planning for the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week events and activities.

The City of Dallas Office of Community Care is in the planning phase for the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week. Similar to the 2021 Celebration Week, this year's events will be in a virtual format in accordance with a recommendation from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Advisory Board. This recommendation from the Board, supported by staff, is based on the unpredictable nature of the COVID pandemic and unique considerations related to hosting a parade and multiple large events. Staff has been working diligently over the last several months to plan for the events, including securing a venue, gala speaker and parade planning partner through a competitive procurement process. In order to make the transition to virtual events for 2022, staff is working to amend these contracts to support the 2023 event or, in the case of the speaker, transition the formatting to virtual.

This year's Celebration Week marks the 40<sup>th</sup> annual event. The theme of 2022 Celebration Week is "40 Years Strong: A Look Toward the Future". Similar to past years, Celebration Week will feature a week's worth of events, including the Virtual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week Gala, a virtual "parade" feature to be broadcast on the City's public access channels, a Youth Summit in partnership with the Youth Commission, the MLK Equity Symposium hosted by the Office of Equity and Inclusion, as well as the annual MLK Job Fair in partnership with Workforce Solutions. Celebration will also include annual traditions, such as the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the Candle Lighting Ceremony hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the Day of Prayer. Further information about each of these events will be provided in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions regarding this Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week, please contact me or Office of Community Care Director, Jessica Galleshaw.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert'.

Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert  
Chief of Staff to the City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors