

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 28, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Dallas Police Department New Academy**

The Dallas Police Department (DPD) is a premier law enforcement agency and nationally recognized for its policing strategies. Since 1990, new recruits and continuing education for officers has taken place at 5310 Red Bird Center Drive. Meant to be a temporary space, this remains our current training facility and is lacking in technological advancements, sophisticated equipment, and the space needed for a growing city police department.

In 2012, DPD expanded the operations by leasing another 27,067 square feet at 5610 Redbird Center Drive to house the in-service training programs. The current cost of both leases is approximately \$1 million per year.

The City has partnered with UNT Dallas (UNTD) with the goal of building a state-of-the-art police training facility. UNTD will identify suitable sites in the main campus that will meet the needs of DPD, coordinate with the Caruth Police Institute to research best in class police training facilities and university supported academies and conduct stakeholder engagement to develop concepts and designs for the facility. They will also ensure health, wellness, and resiliency are part of the design process and continue to inform the philanthropic community on the importance of the project. A summary of issues and challenges related to the current training academy were provided to the Public Safety Committee in June 2021 in a previous memo available [here](#). Highlights regarding the new training academy are:

- The new academy will support the whole officer including mental and physical wellness and will support the Department's goals in recruitment and retention of officers.
- A custom-designed facility that includes classrooms, indoor firing range, virtual reality training space, and expansive gym space, common areas and running trails for use by recruits and in-service officers.
- The facility also will be home to the Caruth Police Institute, a leading voice for complex research, career advancement, and leadership development needs of the Dallas Police Department. This vital relationship is the backbone for research and training that extends to public safety agencies throughout North Texas.
- This new collaborative environment will not only make agencies across our region stronger and more effective, but also will position the Dallas Police Department as a national leader in innovative and evidenced-based policing strategies.

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Funding remains the foremost priority. Based on the information we have today, the estimated cost of completion for a new police academy is approximately \$130–150 million.

The Public Safety Committee was last briefed in October 2021, and funding for the new facility is a legislative priority for the upcoming 88th Texas Legislature. In the weeks and months ahead, we will be engaging both community and legislative leadership regarding support for the new police training facility. Your participation in these efforts will be critical, and we will continue to keep you apprised.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 670-5299 or jon.fortune@dallas.gov.



Jon Fortune
Deputy City Manager

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Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
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Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
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Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
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