

PREAMBLE

We, the residents of the City of Dallas, declare that our city is an equitable democracy and that our diversity and differences are our strength. We acknowledge the history of our city and respect the cultures, languages, and perspectives of all who call Dallas home. We celebrate all those who have advocated for the advancement of our city in any capacity and celebrate their courage and resiliency.

We strive to be a city where the talents and contributions of every resident of Dallas are recognized and embraced. Further, we strive to champion equity, community empowerment, and accessibility for every resident of Dallas. We aspire to deliver a service-first governance model that reflects the values in which our city believes and works to make a reality for each resident.

We strive for a city in which residents have the opportunity to thrive and succeed with:

- (1) a safe, healthy, clean, and sustainable living environment;
- (2) a resilient and connected neighborhood supported by reliable and accessible infrastructure that is surrounded by a robust local economy;
- (3) an adaptive, affordable, and easily accessible transportation system that supports all neighborhoods within the City of Dallas;
- (4) vibrant and welcoming public spaces throughout the City of Dallas where all residents feel a sense of belonging;
- (5) resources necessary to prosper economically and build wealth;
- (6) safe and affordable housing for generations to come;
- (7) quality and trauma-informed child and youth educators, including early childhood and pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade education;
- (8) compassionate, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed health and mental health care; and
- (9) opportunities to participate in government decision-making, while having access to a communicative and transparent municipal government.

We recognize that the City of Dallas lies on the traditional territory formerly occupied by multiple indigenous groups, including the Caddo, Wichita, nomadic groups such as the Comanche and Kiowa, and ancestral tribes including the Arkikosa, Atakapa, Karankawa, and Tawakoni, and many others. We recognize these indigenous groups and original inhabitants and stewards of this land. The City of Dallas endeavors to honor their stewardship of the land by protecting the environment and all living things within it.

We acknowledge the grave injustices and atrocities that form part of our country's history, and our city's history. Including, the forced labor of enslaved Africans, colonialism that

displaced indigenous peoples from their lands, the devaluing and underpaying of immigrant workers, and the discrimination, racial segregation, mass incarceration, and other forms of violence and systemic inequity that continue to be experienced by marginalized groups. Further, we acknowledge the role the City of Dallas uniquely played as a Southern city in the production of Cotton and the resulting immense economic profit the City acquired because of it. We recognize these historical truths and their subsequent results which are embedded into our society as systemic inequities; these systemic inequities are found today within so many of our country's structures and institutions. We are ever mindful that intentional action is required to undo and prevent the wrongs of the past from worsening or continuing harm. It is imperative that we work collaboratively to enact institutions, laws, and procedures to promote justice and equity for all residents of Dallas.

The collective values set out in this preamble will guide the operation of the City of Dallas and shape the way the City carries out the duties, obligations, and authorities trusted upon it by residents and granted to it by the charter.

We, the people of Dallas, are united in our determination to build a just and equitable city for all. We recognize the efforts of those residents of Dallas, past and present, who fought for racial equity, social justice, accessibility, voting rights, and inclusivity and honor their contributions to make our city the place it is today. We extend our gratitude to the residents who have advocated, fought, struggled, and dreamed of a better life and a better city. Together, we work to make meaningful changes that honor their efforts as we move toward a better tomorrow for future generations.