



GREATER DALLAS PLANNING COUNCIL

Our mission is to shape, promote and advocate a creative sustainable future for the Dallas region.

February 13, 2018

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
Dallas City Hall
1500 Marilla St.
Dallas, TX 75201

Re: City of Dallas proposed park land dedication ordinance.

Dear Mayor Rawlings and Council Members:

The Greater Dallas Planning Council (GDPC), founded in 1946, is the oldest Dallas area civic organization that focuses on issues shaping regional growth.

The GDPC understands that the City Council will be briefed on this ordinance in March, and wishes to provide its input for the Council's consideration. After a review and analysis of the proposed park land dedication ordinance, GDPC has adopted the following position statement:

“Recognizing the environmental, health and safety benefits to residents associated with parks and open space, the Greater Dallas Planning Council fully supports the Dallas Park Land Dedication Ordinance as proposed. The Park Land Dedication Ordinance will provide the City of Dallas with a critical tool to create new parks to keep up with its growing population without placing an undue burden on the City's budget or existing taxpayers. The proposed ordinance will provide an equitable and defensible basis for the City to require dedication of park land and payment of park development fees, flexibility in how they are applied, transparency and accountability.”

The GDPC utilizes a rigorous vetting process for all position statements to achieve an objective, unbiased outcome. Position statement requests are initiated by a Board Member or Task Force, evaluated for conflicts by the Issues Working Group (consisting of all Task Force Chairs and the Vice President of Issues), and reviewed by the Executive Committee with final action and approval by the Board of Directors. This position statement was approved at the February 6, 2018 GDPC Board Meeting.

Sincerely,

Greater Dallas Planning Council


Paul E. Ridley
President

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Joey Zapata, Ass't City Manager
Robert Kent, GDPC
Mike Grace, GDPC