



# City of Denton

City Hall  
215 E. McKinney Street  
Denton, Texas  
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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Legal

**CM/ DCM/ ACM:** Aaron Leal, Interim City Attorney

**DATE:** October 10, 2017

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion and give staff direction regarding the Texas Open Meetings Act as it relates to Section 3.B. ("Receive Scheduled Citizen Reports from Members of the Public") items of the City Council's Regular Meeting agenda.

### **BACKGROUND**

Denton citizens have inquired at past City Council meetings as to why the Council cannot deliberate and take action on Section 3.B. ("Public Comments") items of the Council's Regular Meeting Agenda. Last week, I included in the City Manager's Friday Report an explanation as to why engaging in such practice may result in a violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act. (A copy of the report appears in Section II.J. of the attached exhibit). Briefly, Section 3.B. items do not contain the necessary language that is used for all regular meeting agenda action items, which action items consistently use the words "consider" in connection with "adoption" or "approval". This is the custom that the Council has adopted over the years. In this work session, I will elaborate further on the law that supports this position. In addition, I will present the City Council with options to help Council decide how they wish to treat in the future Section 3.B. items.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP**

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

**Related Key Focus Area:** Organizational Excellence

**Related Goal:** 1.3 Promote effective internal and external communication

### **EXHIBITS**

1. Friday Status Report dated September 29, 2017

Respectfully submitted:  
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Interim City Attorney

Prepared by:  
Toni Reedy  
Legal Secretary