



City of Denton

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

DEPARTMENT: Public Affairs / Intergovernmental Relations

CM/ DCM/ ACM: Bryan Langley, Deputy City Manager

DATE: May 1, 2018

SUBJECT

Consider approval of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Denton, Texas requesting the State of Texas and Department of Public Safety ("TxDPS") to take action and resolve significant concerns at the TxDPS Field Office located at 820 N Loop 288, Denton, Texas; and providing an effective date.

BACKGROUND

On March 6, 2018, City Council inquired about the Texas Department of Public Safety field office located at 820 N Loop 288, Denton. Significant safety concerns have been received regarding the undersized facility, lack of on-site parking, and pedestrians crossing the six-lane highway due to the lack of on-site parking.

The property, owned by the State of Texas, is 1.571 acres in size with an approximate building size of 7,500 square feet and 44 parking spaces. See aerial image of site below.



The property is not platted with the City of Denton, nor is it required to be, since it is owned by the State. The State does not have to follow local building codes, but it does have to abide by State Fire Code. Any violations issued would need to be based off the state regulations and enforcement would be done through the State Fire Marshal's office. TxDPS appears to be abiding by State Fire Code by managing total number

of occupants inside the building (by forming wait lines outside) and maintaining the required Fire lanes in their lot. The posted occupant load for the public of the office is 49 people.

DISCUSSION

Staff has reached out to State Representative Lynn Stucky's office to request assistance. Representative Stucky began formal discussions with the Department of Public Safety in October 2017. Please see below timeline with the attached correspondence attached in **Exhibit 3**:

- October 18, 2017 – Rep. Stucky sent a letter to DPS requesting a review of the office and establishing a plan for providing adequate service to Denton, TX and Denton County.
- October 24, 2017 – Meeting with DPS in Rep. Stucky's office in Austin
- November 8, 2017 – DPS sends a response letter to Rep. Stucky acknowledging the office is too small, but the property is constrained. The office conducts 3638 transactions monthly. (*Note: The handwritten notes are from staff of Rep. Stucky; a clean version was not available.*)
- December 20, 2017 – DPS provides additional information and statistics on the volume of transactions at the request of Rep. Stucky's office. This was requested to understand the impact of the Carrollton DPS Megacenter office opening in October 2017 and to begin data collection to identify the needs and solutions for Denton.
- March 23, 2018 – DPS sends a letter to Rep. Stucky with additional data on transactions and mentions the opening of an additional office in Flower Mound in spring. Please note that this location is planned in the Denton County Southwest Courthouse. City staff reached out to Commissioner Eads office who responded that they have not heard further details from DPS; it is possible that it could be occupied and opened in summer 2018.

No additional correspondence has taken place since March but discussions are continuing. City staff will continue to work with Rep. Stucky's office and receive updates on this matter. Please note that although supportive of interim solutions to help alleviate pressure from the site, such as opening additional locations or promoting online services available, Rep. Stucky's office does not believe this is a sufficient fix for a permanent solution in Denton. His office is focused on collecting data, identifying the need, and building a case with DPS going into the 2019 legislative session. His office will continue to advocate for solutions to be included in the appropriations process in the next 2019 legislative session.

To support Representative Stucky's efforts, bring greater awareness to the issue, and request TxDPS to take action, staff has drafted a resolution for City Council consideration (**Exhibit 2**). If approved, staff could use this resolution to continue to work with legislators to seek out solutions, as well as add to the City's legislative program for the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019.

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: 1.6 Collaborate with local, regional, state, and federal partners

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Resolution
3. Correspondence – Rep. Stucky and TxDPS

4. Presentation

Respectfully submitted:

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