

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 4, 2018

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **School Crossing Guards**

In recent days there have been resident and media inquiries regarding school crossing guard availability. Specifically, there's been misunderstanding surrounding school crossing guard vacancies and reassignments made to cover those vacancies.

Presently 350 people are employed by the Dissolution Committee for Dallas County Schools to provide school crossing guard services at about 400 intersections near elementary schools in Dallas. Since the dissolution of Dallas County Schools by voters in November 2017, 41 positions have been vacated.

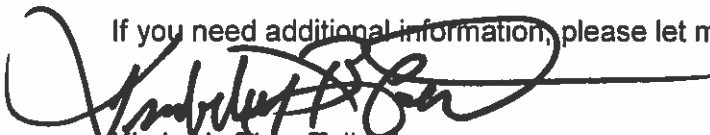
Of the approximately 400 intersections serviced by school crossing guards, 78 are deemed "less hazardous" than the others. 41 crossing guards who had been assigned to "less hazardous" locations have been moved to areas where the need is greater, based on traffic studies.

Admittedly, many of the 41 school crossing guards who were moved had been longstanding and beloved fixtures in the communities they served. But, the school crossing guard function is primarily to help assure public safety across the City for school-age children. These reassignments will help assure the public safety of even greater numbers of children who walk to and from school in the higher traffic areas where they are now stationed.

To help fill vacancies, Dallas County Schools continues to interview applicants. We are also working with schools to identify other staffing options at less hazardous locations, such as utilizing volunteers and partnering with schools to help offset program costs.

As discussed at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee Meeting, the Council will consider an agenda item for a School Crossing Guard Services Contract on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Furthermore, you will receive a detailed memo on this agenda item next Friday, May 11, 2018.

If you need additional information, please let me know.



Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert  
Chief of Staff

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