

Mayor and Council,

I am pleased to pass on the following information. All information in Manager's Notes is available to the public and may be shared.

Follow up on Audit RFQ's

As discussed at Council, staff has been assembling a diverse group of individuals to serve on the committee to make recommendations to Council for both the Q1 & Q2 FY25 Compliance Audit and the FY25 Annual Audit. I am pleased that we have arranged an excellent group, all willing to serve in this advisory role. We anticipate they will meet in May after the RFQ responses arrive and make recommendations to Council in June.

Keith Dagen: [Dagen TML Profile](#)

Author of the Terrell Report provided by TML City Financial Services

Keith Dagen spent 26 years in municipal finance with the cities of Garland and Richardson, holding multiple roles including Director of Finance. He began his career as a Business Systems Analyst and steadily advanced through leadership positions before retiring. He remains active in the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT), where he previously served as TMRS representative, Secretary, and President.

Trudy Lewis: [Lewis LinkedIn Profile](#)

Assistant City Manager, City of North Richland Hills

With over 20 years of municipal government finance experience, Trudy Lewis has served in leadership roles in several cities, including Arlington, Irving, Glenn Heights, Ferris, Hutchins, and North Richland Hills. In January 2024, she was promoted to Assistant City Manager of North Richland Hills after two years as the Director of Budget and Research.

Marty Coursey: [Coursey LinkedIn Profile](#)

Interim Finance Director, Terrell

Marty Coursey is a Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) with more than 30 years of municipal finance experience. She is currently serving as Interim Finance Director for the City of Terrell. Ms. Coursey has held various leadership roles—including Chief Accountant, Assistant Director, and Director of Finance—for cities such as Athens, Greenville, Uvalde, Fate, Forney, Highland Village, Kaufman, and Balch Springs.

Charles Williams: [Williams LinkedIn Profile](#)

Strategic Government Resources (SGR)

Charles Williams brings over 40 years of experience in finance, with more than 27 years focused on governmental accounting and auditing. Working through Strategic Government Resources (SGR), he currently serves in interim finance leadership roles. Mr. Williams has held key positions such as Accounting Manager, Assistant Director of Finance, Finance Director, and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the cities of Keene, Addison, Oak Point, Lancaster, and Cedar Hill.

Robert Messer: [Messer LinkedIn Profile](#)

Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, American National Bank of Texas

Robert Messer has served in various capacities in Terrell including as a City Councilmember and Board Member of the TEDC. He is currently active with the Risk Management Association (RMA), serving as Chairman of the Community Bank Council and as a member of its Board of Directors. Mr. Messer also chairs the Banking Advisory Board for the Finance Department at Texas A&M University's Mays Business School.

Chisholm Trace Development Adjacent to High School

We saw this week the start of construction of the Planned Development at the corner of Poetry Road and Town North. The Chisholm Trace development will be 91 single family homes, all on 75-foot-wide lots. The zoning was approved in summer 2024 and construction plat was approved earlier this year. The grading permit has been released and contractors have begun clearing the property. No home building permits have been applied for to-date, our engineering inspectors are working with the contractors to begin infrastructure work at the site, we are expecting construction of improvements to begin within 30-60 days; 12-18 months to complete infrastructure, look for houses to start in late 2026.

Arrival of New Fire Engine

Our second Fire Engine arrived today. Emergency Management Coordinator Dustin Conner and Fire Chief Shane LeCroy provided a brief orientation to the equipment for me. The team is thankful for Council's continued support.



As a reminder the staff committee that provided the specifications for the equipment and outfitting of the two new engines were: Hilton Brown, Joey Bush, David Kuykendall, Josh Mims and Chris Spears. These Terrell Firefighters are greatly respected team members and this effort would not have been possible without their commitment, practical knowledge and wisdom.

Representative Gooden Feedback

We continue to work closely with U.S. Representative Gooden, the attached letter from the Congressman is his response to our recent SAFER Grant letter. Senior Policy Analyst Omayra Mata continues to work with Congressional Staff in support of this effort. Ms. Mata and Mr. Conner work together to communicate with FEMA in seeking information about the potential timing of the next SAFER Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Utility Cut Repairs

Regarding the utility cuts, we had high hopes for Anchor, the group selected as a solution for FY25. Unfortunately, we have found that Anchor is not able to meet the performance requirements we have for them. Many of the utility cuts provided to Anchor have not been addressed by the deadline period (60 days).

We have been working on the following approach:

- 1) Several locations will be handled by in-house staff. These will be limited due to the workload of staff on other projects but, when possible, we will make the assignment and reduce contractor costs.
- 2) Mr. Caldwell initiated a new procurement to select another vendor, preferably one that could be more responsive and reduce costs. I signed the contract with Boardwalk today for \$43k based on that procurement and there will be 32 sites completed, including Johnson, Town North, South Rockwall, and Medora, to be started April 30th and completed by the week of May 5.
- 3) A remaining list already dispatched to Anchor will be delivered by Anchor. While they are late in starting work, they are under contract and we need to get some performance prior to cancelling. As examples, this list includes Stallings, Park, Elm, and Frank. The Anchor group of Utility Cut repairs totals 31 sites, some concrete and some asphalt. We believe we have their commitment to complete all 31 starting on May 1st and finishing by June 1st.

We will continue to monitor this issue and we may bring other strategies forward to improve in this area. Thank you for patience as we work through this topic.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4305

April 15, 2025

FEMA
Acting Administrator Cameron Hamilton
P.O. Box 10055
Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

Re: City of Terrell, TX, SAFER Grant application

Acting Administrator Hamilton:

I want to offer my strong support for the application being submitted by the City of Terrell, TX, for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. This vital program will help this community in my district increase fire department staffing levels, which ensures the safety and well-being of their residents.

As a historically low-income area and commercial hub in the fastest growing county in the United States (Kaufman County, U.S. Census Bureau), the city of Terrell must explore every option to provide adequate fire services. In particular, the city needs to hire sixteen additional firefighters for a period of three years using the funds from this grant. With the opening of Fire Station #3, this new workforce will provide high quality and effective emergency services for the community.

The need for more staff cannot be overstated, and I ask you to give full consideration to the city's application and request for \$5.5 million. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

