



Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

Leticia Marques
Neighborhood Liaison

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

FROM: Leticia Marques, Neighborhood Liaison; Melissa Desroches, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

CC: Conor Baldwin, CFO; Doreen Burgess, Assistant to the City Manager; Shawn Machado, Assistant City Manager; Shannon Cohan, Superintendent of Parks

DATE: March 5, 2024

SUBJECT: MOTION RESPONSE: 2/6/2024—C. Yem—Req. City Mgr. Update “Adopt An Island Program” To Include JFK Plaza Where Officer Chris Rouses Statue Is Located, As Well As, The Newly Completed Lord Overpass Island

The City Manager’s Office and the Neighborhood Liaison have been working in conjunction with the Superintendent of Parks and Department of Planning and Development regarding the potential to include JFK Plaza and the Lord Overpass Island in the “Adopt An Island” program.

The area on JFK Plaza near the Chris Rouses Memorial statue is currently maintained by DPW. Due to the volume of perennial plants and bushes surrounding the Rouses statue, it would be quite difficult to invite residents to care for this area on a consistent basis, as the volume of plants in that area requires a variety of equipment and tools which would prove challenging for individual residents to provide. There would also be a concern that if under the “Adopt an Island” program, if the vegetation surrounding the statue was not properly maintained, it would become an eyesore on City Hall Plaza, which would not be beneficial. In that case, DPW would have to maintain it to keep it clean and presentable. Another consideration might be to provide an opportunity for a commercial landscaping company to be considered for “adoption” of the area.

Ideally, it is recommended the Rouses statue perennials and bushes continue to be maintained by DPW.



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In addition, there are a variety of pollinator garden boxes on the perimeter of JFK Plaza, near the stairs leading to DPD and the Police Department. It would be recommended that those boxes potentially be adopted out to residents as part of the “Adopt an Island” program, as they are smaller and require less care to maintain, which would make it a great way to engage the community on JFK Plaza and beautify the area. The Neighborhood Liaison and Superintendent of Parks toured the “Adopt an Island” locations on Feb. 21st as part of on-going, consistent process of making sure the areas are maintained.

Regarding the Lord Overpass Island, this area is also currently maintained by DPW. The Parks Department has a weekly maintenance schedule which they currently follow, and plan to continue throughout the spring and summer. In addition, the contractor is responsible for 60 days of lawn maintenance (after acceptance) and 2 years of maintenance of trees and shrubs. This is still under review by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc (VHB). It is recommended that after ET&L's contractual obligations are up, we should set up a scope based on ET&L's documents and VHB's that could help us understand the cost of either contracting a company or adding it to the City's own budget.

It is not currently recommended this area of the Lord Overpass be included in the “Adopt an Island” program due to safety concerns regarding residents attempting to cross the lanes of traffic to participate in the maintenance of the plants on the islands.