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GREATER DALLAS PLANNING COUNCIL (GDPC) ANNOUNCES POSITION STATEMENT ON FAIR PARK

Irving, Texas, July 20, 2016 — Recognizing the regional importance of Fair Park, Greater Dallas Planning Council issues the following position statement approved by the board. The Greater Dallas Planning Council (GDPC) is a Dallas civic organization founded in 1946 whose mission it is to shape, promote and advocate a creative, sustainable future for the Greater Dallas Region. Its membership is comprised of architects, planners, contractors, engineers, developers, community activists, corporations and municipalities that are interested in and involved with local and regional planning issues.

“The future of Fair Park and its adjacent neighborhoods are inextricably linked. While there has been a long history of planning discussions for the disadvantaged neighborhoods surrounding Fair Park, there is a continued need to focus on improving the economic and physical connections between Fair Park and the surrounding communities, as well as ensuring follow-through on plan implementation. The GDPC sees the discussion surrounding privatization of Fair Park as an historic opportunity to address this lack of implementation, and to highlight long-neglected issues requiring resolution for these neighborhoods to thrive.

Among other benefits, open space can serve as the connective tissue, natural relief, and social hub of great communities, and Fair Park is an unparalleled asset and opportunity in this regard. The City has an opportunity to capitalize on the attention and energy surrounding Fair Park to enact positive change for the nearby communities and the city as a whole, the magnitude of which is unprecedented. However, to do so we must coordinate the proposed improvements to Fair Park in a way that strengthens neighborhood connections, is guided by input from South Dallas/Fair Park stakeholders, and is coordinated with other South Dallas/Fair Park, community-centric planning efforts.

GDPC understands that there are a number of initiatives addressing an array of community planning issues currently underway—both inside and outside the fairgrounds, and these parallel efforts underscore the need for a common dialogue to help guide the myriad of decisions on the horizon. Consequently, GDPC advocates for an intelligent and balanced process that places the conversations regarding operations and management of Fair Park in the context of advancing community priorities, while providing an open and inclusive avenue that gives neighborhoods and stakeholders ownership in the future of this area.

The GDPC is eager and prepared to serve as a participant and be a reliable source of unbiased information and facts necessary for such planning efforts. We also support the creation of a mechanism to advocate for

Fair Park neighborhoods, and advance strong planning and community development for the area that benefit its residents and all citizens of Dallas.

GDPC further resolves that any new governance model for Fair Park should include provision for preservation of its historic buildings and other structures, as well as on-going physical upkeep and maintenance of its buildings and grounds to meet current code requirements.”

About Greater Dallas Planning Council

The mission of GDPC is to shape, promote and advocate a creative sustainable future for the Dallas region. Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of subject matter experts. Our goal—to provide a forum for exploring and developing policies for the betterment of the greater Dallas area—benefits from this diversity. We have members representing both public and private sector in the following areas: Planning, Engineering, Architecture, Economic, Environment, Communications and Community Representatives. www.gdpc.org for more information

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