

# The Case for a Convention Center Hotel

City Council Economic Development  
Committee

January 11, 2008



# Private Sector Committee Introductory Remarks



# Overview

- I. History of the Convention Industry
- II. The Competition
- III. Business Case
- IV. The Opportunity



# I. History of the Convention Industry



# National Convention Industry

- Positive economic impact
  - In 2006, the exhibition industry represented over \$62.0B in economic impact nationwide
  - 11,086 exhibitions a year representing 70 million convention attendees. Of this amount, over 5,500 exhibitions held in Exhibition/Convention Centers
  - The average convention attendee spends \$290 per day



# Dallas Convention Industry

- Positive economic impact to the City of Dallas
  - In 2005 economic impact from hospitality industry was \$2.60 billion
  - Local taxes generated by hospitality industry in 2005 were \$228 million
- Creates jobs in the City of Dallas
  - Hospitality industry spending supported 50,840 jobs in 2005
  - The diverse range of activities offered by this industry provides excellent job opportunities for people with varied skills and educational backgrounds
  - Income generated by hospitality industry is non-polluting with a minimal impact on city services



# History of Dallas Convention Industry

- Pre 1970
  - In 1957, the Dallas Memorial Auditorium opened including 70,000 square feet of exhibit space, a 1,700 seat theater and a 9,000 seat arena
  - There were two quality convention hotels in Dallas – Fairmont and Dallas Hilton



Dallas Memorial Auditorium



# History of Dallas Convention Industry cont.

- 1971 – 1995
  - The Dallas Memorial Auditorium was re-named the Dallas Convention Center and expanded three times (1973, 1984, 1994)
  - For most of this time period, the Dallas Convention Center was one of the largest centers in the nation
  - Hilton Anatole and Hyatt Regency were unique hotels with large room inventory, special destination qualities and major marketing presence
  - DFW Airport provided global accessibility





# History of Dallas Convention Industry cont.

- 1995 – Present
  - One of nine (9) major convention centers with over 1 million square feet of exhibition space
  - An additional 23 convention centers with between 500,000 – 1 million square feet of exhibit space.
  - The 2002 expansion provided more exhibit space, but did not include ballroom/meeting space
  - Convention Center falling behind in meeting space to match exhibition space
    - A ratio of 1:2 meeting to exhibit space s.f. is the industry expectation, currently the convention center meeting to exhibit space square feet ratio is 1:5
  - Parking has become more of a challenge for convention center attendees
  - City begins to concentrate focus strategies and investment in the downtown core



# The Investment

- In 1957 the City took its first step to become a major convention destination. Throughout the past 50 years, the City of Dallas has invested millions of dollars in its Convention Center facilities
- The estimated replacement value of the facility today is \$1 billion



## II. The Competition



# National Convention Market

- Prior to 1990, there were only a few competitive convention markets and an abundance of potential customers for key convention destinations
- In the 1990s, there was an explosive growth in the number of exhibit halls in the United States
- Today, competition is fierce among cities for convention business with the following elements as keys to success:
  - Attached/Adjacent convention center hotel for convention center attendees
  - Quality and flexible convention center meeting space for educational programs
  - Destination appeal with a vibrant center city to provide easily accessible entertainment

Facility	1990	2005	2006	2007	2010
Number of single facilities within a city with more than 1 million square feet of total exhibit space	4	8	9	9	9
Number of single facilities within a city with 500,000 to 1 million square feet of total exhibit space	8	22	23	23	28

Source: *Tradeshaw Week*



# National Market Growth

## Historic Growth of the Exhibit Space Supply in the United States and Canada

Time Period	% Change in Square Feet of Exhibit Space
Historic <sup>2</sup>	3.6%
1980's	3.4%
1990's	3.0%
2000's	4.9%

<sup>2</sup> Average historic growth rate from 1986 to 2004.

Sources: Tradeshow Week, HVS International

# National Competition

- Our key competition includes the following premier destinations:
  - Chicago
  - Orlando
  - Las Vegas
  - Atlanta
  - Anaheim
  - San Diego
  - Denver
  - Phoenix
  - New Orleans



Chicago McCormick Place and Hyatt Hotel



Orange County Convention Center (Orlando)

# National Competition cont.

- Our competition has grown due to aggressive marketing with an emphasis on the convention attendee experience—Las Vegas, Orlando, San Diego, Denver, and others
- In recent years, tier-two cities have begun selling to our core business and gaining market share—Kansas City, Cincinnati, Reno, and others



City of Las Vegas offers Multiple Self-contained Resort Destinations



# Do our National Competitors have a Convention Center Hotel?

City	Yes/No	Convention Center Hotel	Hotel Rooms	Hotel Opening	Connection to Convention Center
<b>ANAHEIM</b>	Yes	Hilton Anaheim Anaheim Marriott	1,573 1,031	1984, renovated 1997 1982, renovated 2007	Adjacent to CC Across the street from CC
<b>ATLANTA</b>	Yes	Omni Hotel at CNN Center	1,067	1975, expanded 2003	Plaza built in 2004 to connect to CC
<b>CHICAGO</b>	Yes	Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Hotel	800	August 2001	Connected at ground level by common doorway
<b>DENVER</b>	Yes	Hyatt Denver Convention Center Hotel	1,100	December 2005	Adjacent to CC
<b>LAS VEGAS</b>	Yes	Las Vegas Hilton	3,174	1969	Adjacent to CC
<b>LOS ANGELES</b>	Yes*	Marriott/Ritz-Carlton Hotel as part of LA Live development	1,000+	Late 2010	Adjacent to CC, connection unknown
<b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	Yes	Hilton New Orleans Riverside	1,616	1977, renovated 2007-08	One block from CC
<b>ORLANDO</b>	Yes*	Hilton Hotel Convention Center, plus others within walking distance	1,400	2009	Adjacent with access through sky bridge
<b>PHOENIX</b>	Yes*	Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel	1,000	October 2008	One block from CC
<b>SAN DIEGO</b>	Yes*	Hilton Convention Center Hotel, plus others within walking distance	1,200	December 2008	Adjacent to CC

\*Project Underway





# Statewide Competition

- Several cities within Texas are competing with the City of Dallas for convention business—San Antonio, Houston Austin, Fort Worth
- Today, good convention facilities and hotels are prerequisites, not competitive advantages



Omni Fort Worth Hotel adjacent to the Fort Worth Convention Center



Hilton Austin adjacent to the Austin Convention Center



# Do our Statewide Competitors have a Convention Center Hotel?

City	Yes/No	Convention Center Hotel	Hotel Rooms	Hotel Opening	Connection to Convention Center
<b>AUSTIN</b>	Yes	Hilton Austin	800	December 2003	Adjacent to CC
<b>FORT WORTH</b>	Yes*	Omni Fort Worth Hotel	607	November 2008	Adjacent to CC
<b>HOUSTON</b>	Yes	Hilton Americas-Houston	1,200	December 2003	Connected via two skywalks
<b>SAN ANTONIO</b>	Yes*	Grand Hyatt San Antonio	1,000	Spring 2008	Adjacent to CC

\*Project Underway



Hilton Americas-Houston



# Local Market Share

## Greater Dallas Hotel Market Distribution Revenue

	1987	1997	2007
<b>City of Dallas</b>	\$238,704,675	\$490,642,930	\$633,087,017
Percent of Total Market	54.5%	49.7%	40.1%
<b>Irving/Grand Prairie</b>	\$88,657,404	\$216,592,182	\$322,334,195
Percent of Total Market	20.3%	21.9%	20.4%
<b>Addison/Carrollton/Farmers Branch</b>	\$42,112,968	\$112,829,297	\$143,205,654
Percent of Total Market	9.6%	11.4%	9.1%
<b>Plano/Richardson/Frisco/Allen</b>	\$17,426,221	\$63,778,583	\$176,193,540
Percent of Total Market	4.0%	6.5%	11.2%
<b>Garland/Rockwall/Mesquite</b>	\$13,215,438	\$21,307,168	\$44,234,101
Percent of Total Market	3.0%	2.2%	2.8%
<b>Denton/Lewisville/McKinney</b>	\$9,936,433	\$38,152,197	\$81,977,215
Percent of Total Market	2.3%	3.9%	5.2%
<b>Grapevine</b>	\$27,681,144	\$43,902,857	\$176,468,994
Percent of Total Market	6.3%	4.4%	11.2%
<b>Total Rooms Revenue in the Greater Dallas Area Market</b>	<b>\$437,734,283</b>	<b>\$987,205,214</b>	<b>\$1,577,500,716</b>

Sources: Smith Travel Research and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts



# Local Competition

- There are several major convention/hotel developments occurring outside of Dallas, but within the Metroplex that are competition for the City of Dallas
  - The Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine is a \$500 million destination hotel and currently expanding
  - Planned development of expanded Convention Center and Hotel near Glory Park in Arlington
  - Future plans for the Texas Stadium site in Irving



Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas

# III. Business Case



# Benefits

- A Convention Center Hotel and the addition of a meeting/ballroom space can:
  - Make Dallas and the Dallas Convention Center competitive
  - Provide job opportunities for people with varied skills and educational backgrounds
  - Attract convention attendees and their dollars
  - Create a major downtown destination that supports revitalization goals and stimulates new commercial development



# Reclaim Market Share

- The lack of a Convention Center Hotel has already impacted us:
  - Lost Opportunity
    - Over 80 groups that represent \$800 million in direct spending; \$2.6 billion in economic impact to the city
  - Lost Business
    - From 2003-2007, we lost 68 meetings due to the lack of a CC Hotel and destination appeal, representing \$300 million in direct dollars and \$1 billion in economic impact to the city
    - Based on a 20% conversion rate, we would have captured \$60 million in direct dollars and \$200 million in economic impact to the city



# Reclaim Market Share<sub>cont.</sub>

- Potential room night impact with a convention center hotel is 1,724,733 over the next 15 years and this is inclusive of such groups as:
  - American Heart Association
  - Newspaper Publishers Association of America
  - American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons
  - American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
  - American Urological Association





# Dallas Economic Impact

- Hospitality industry spending supported 50,840 jobs in 2005:
  - 37,225 were directly employed by hospitality industry sectors
  - 7,022 were indirect jobs
  - 6,593 were induced jobs
- Economic impact for hospitality industry in 2005 was \$2.60 billion
- Local taxes generated by hospitality industry in 2005 were \$228 million



Source: Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau

# Downtown Connection

- Currently the Convention Center is isolated from downtown due to the lack of pedestrian-friendly access
- A Convention Center Hotel can support retail, entertainment and other commercial development and become an anchor for downtown



# Improve Convention Center's Connection to Downtown Core

- Currently, there are many improvements made or under development in Dallas:
  - Main Street Redevelopment and Downtown Residential
  - Arts District Expansion and the Nasher
  - Uptown/State-Thomas Area
  - The Latino Cultural Center
  - The Cedars
  - West Village
  - Victory Development and efforts to reinvent West End
  - Additional new parks inside the “loop”



Mosaic Lofts



Joule Hotel



1407 Main Street

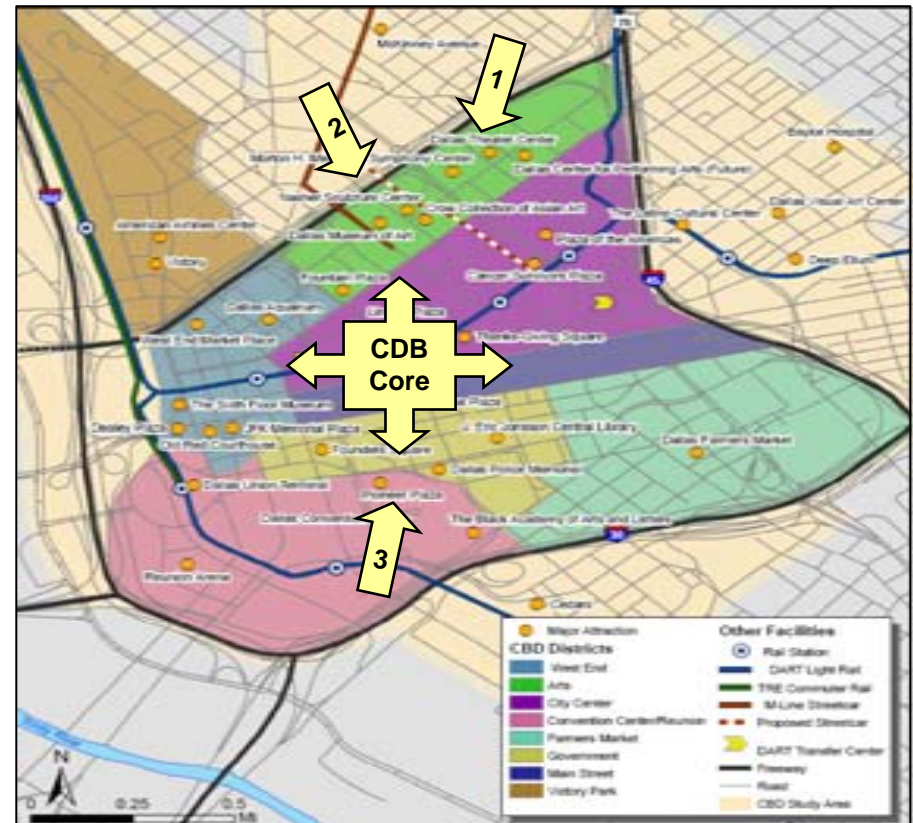
# Improve Convention Center's Connection to Downtown Core cont.

- **However, we Still Lack Critical Mass:**
  - Most of the improvements noted as advancing our urban experience are located outside the downtown core
  - The visitor perspective is what they see when they step out of the convention center after their meetings
  - Imagine what our visitor impression would be if downtown felt like West Village or Mockingbird Station
  - Continue to find ways to accelerate the urbanization of downtown
- **Critical Mass Thresholds:**
  - 10,000 Residential Units
  - 250,000 s.f. of new mixed, unique retail and basic services to accommodate existing and anticipated residential population, downtown workers, visitors and the regional market
  - Strong physical connections to surrounding neighborhoods



# Improve Convention Center's Connection to Downtown Core cont.

- A broad strategy, involving three distinct anchors promoting investment in the core were proposed in the “Revitalizing Downtown” briefing presented to City Council on December 5, 2007:
  - **Anchor One:** Utilize the Arts District as a Primary Anchor
  - **Anchor Two:** Redefine the downtown by utilizing the Woodall Rodgers Deck Park to incorporate Victory and a portion of Uptown
  - **Anchor Three:** Create an anchor around the Convention Center through investment in a Convention Center Hotel and adjacent retail, food and entertainment complex(es)



# Economic Analysis of Convention Center Hotel

- The City of Dallas Office Economic Development analyzed the impact of a convention center hotel on Dallas' economy, municipal finances and downtown connectivity



# Summary of Economic Impact Study

- Construction of a 1,000 room convention center hotel that includes up to \$80 million in direct city participation would result in a positive net fiscal impact of \$62.9 million between 2009 and 2038.
- From a total fiscal impact standpoint, the hotel would be a break-even development by 2022, its tenth full year of operation.
- The construction and operation of the hotel would result in approximately \$2.5 billion in economic activity within the city over the 30 year period including direct, indirect and induced economic impacts.
- Over 3,000 temporary jobs from construction and over 800 permanent full time jobs from hotel operations would result.

Source: Draft Preliminary Study conducted by the City of Dallas Office of Economic Development: "The Impact of a Convention Center Hotel on Dallas' Economy, Municipal Finances, and Downtown Connectivity"

# Summary of Economic Impact Study

cont.

- These favorable results likely depend on additional downtown economic development projects being built to connect the Dallas Convention Center and hotel to the West End Historic district.
- Without this associated entertainment and connectivity component, the hotel would be in a relatively isolated corner of the central business district and have diminished chance of serving as a third downtown development anchor.

Source: Draft Preliminary Study conducted by the City of Dallas Office of Economic Development: “The Impact of a Convention Center Hotel on Dallas’ Economy, Municipal Finances, and Downtown Connectivity”



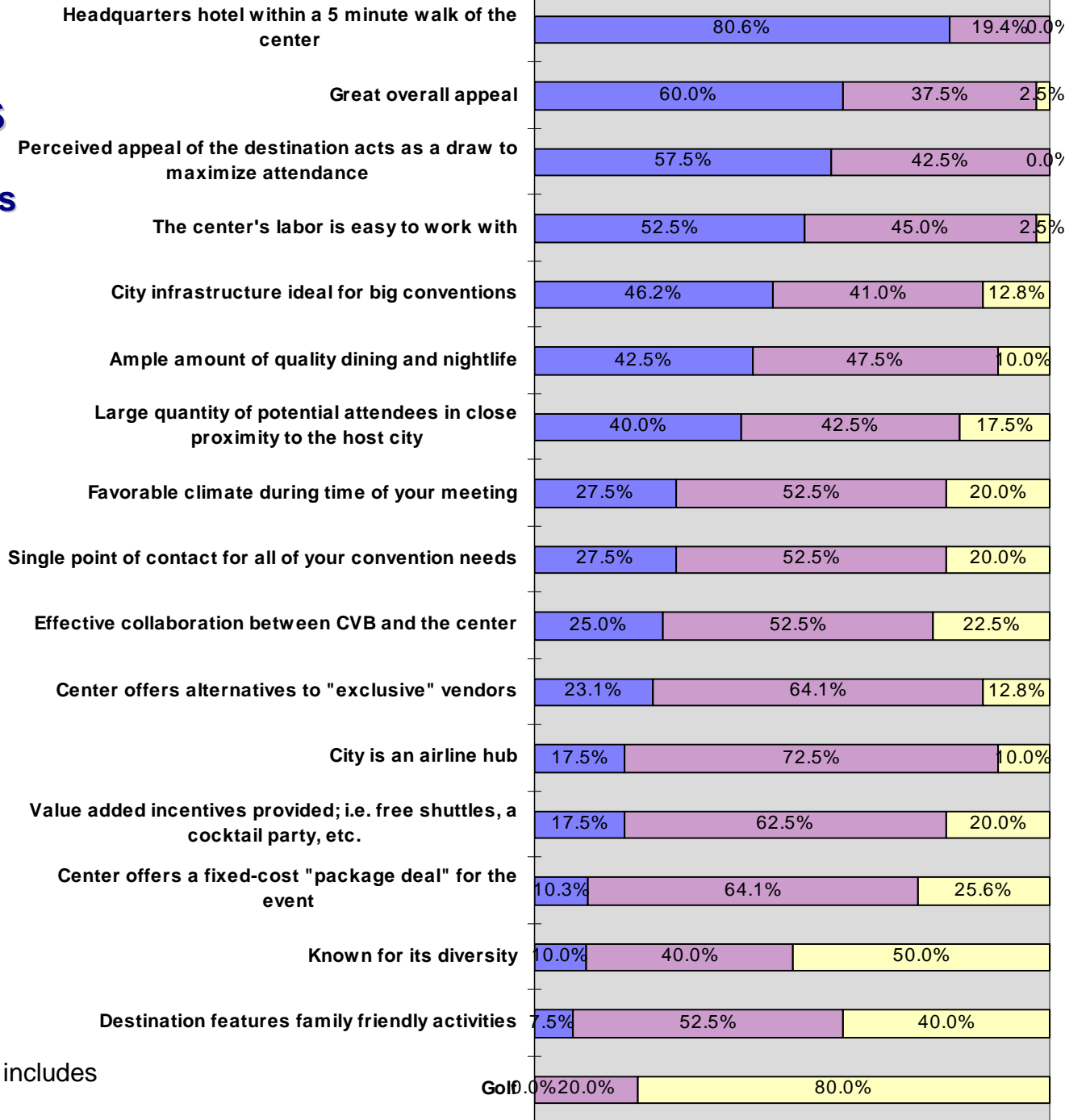
# Customers Have Spoken

- Customer surveys and comments continue to reinforce the requirement of a Convention Center Hotel as critical to the competitive edge of the Dallas Convention Center



# 2006 Survey of Meeting Planners

## Deal Makers/Deal Breakers for Dallas Prospects



Legend	
	An absolute must!
	Secondary importance; maybe a tie-breaker
	Of little, if any importance

Source: Watkins Research Group, Inc. includes U.S. & Canadian Meeting Destinations

# Additional Items Our Customers Are Looking For

- More Meeting Space
- Technology – Wireless
- Attendance Marketing Assistance
- Incentives, free space

Source: Tradeshow Week – Convention Center Outlook

# Customer Requirements

- “Dallas is one of the nation’s outstanding cities. However, AAPA is not interested in hosting a conference where the convention center facility is not attached to the headquarter hotel.”
  - Amy Phillips, Director, Meeting and Industry Relations with American Academy of Physician Assistants
- “AFP has met in Dallas in the past, but the current hotel/conventions center package does not present an environment that is attractive to us. We have identified the importance of an attached, large and branded headquarter hotel as one of the ingredients that makes our meeting attractive to our attendees. This does not currently exist in Dallas. If and when it does, it would be possible for us to consider Dallas once again.”
  - Claire Whalen, Managing Director, Sales and Meetings with Association for Financial Professionals
- “It would greatly benefit your city to build a 1,000+ room attached headquarter hotel to the convention center. A hotel situation such as Dallas’ typically costs the client hundreds of thousands of dollars in shuttle expenses as well as additional time on a bus for the attendees.”
  - Chrissy Hart, Director, Conference & Exhibits with International Association of Chiefs of Police

Source: Excerpts from letters submitted to the DCVB



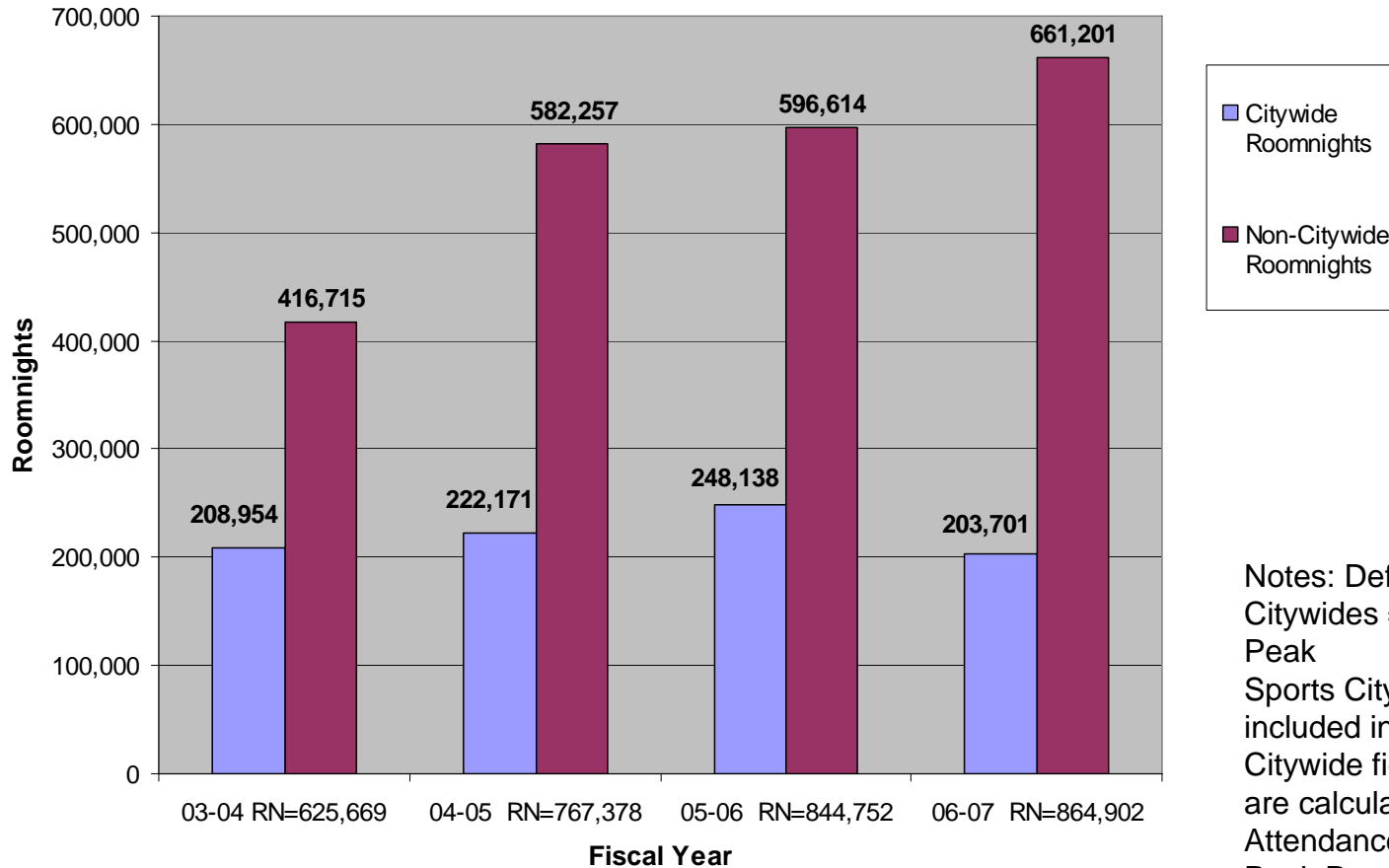
# Customer Requirements cont.

- “In order for us to consider Dallas as a convention destination in the future, it is essential that a headquarter hotel be developed that is connected to the convention center.”
  - Lauren Kramer-Whelan, Director of Meetings with American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Foundation, Inc.
- “We use about 3,000 rooms on peak night, of those; we need at least 1,000 connected to the Center. Otherwise shuttling becomes nightmarish, not to mention the cost. Our attendees don’t want to take busses if they can help it or walk several blocks to attend sessions.”
  - Eduardo J. Finkel, Director of Meetings and Travel with National Association of Secondary School Principals
- “As you know, Dallas was considered as a site for NAR’s 2013 Annual Convention, which was eventually awarded to another city due, in part, to the logistical package of the hotels. Having a major convention center hotel (i.e. over 1,000 rooms and 100K or more square feet of function space) would certainly increase Dallas’s logistical viability for the NAR Convention, which alone is one-third of our selection criteria.”
  - Christy Richards, Managing Director of National Association of Realtors
- “The construction of a 1,000+ room hotel adjacent to the Convention Center will make Dallas more desirable to us (and many other citywide conventions) when considering a Texas location.”
  - Wayne Stetson, Senior Staff Vice President with NAHB Conventions and Meetings Group

Source: Excerpts from letters submitted to the DCVB

# Citywide Events

## Citywide Roomnights vs Non-Citywide Roomnights



Notes: Definite Citywides = 2500+ on Peak  
 Sports Citywides are included in the Non-Citywide figures. They are calculated using Attendance and not Peak Room Nights.



# Dallas' Competitive Deficiencies

- No attached Convention Center Hotel
- Existing hotels are not within easy walking distance
- The lack of a pedestrian-friendly, 24-hour downtown urban core
- Inadequate ballroom/meeting space for existing exhibit halls
- Difficulty and high cost of transportation between the convention center, hotels, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment venues



# IV. The Opportunity





# Convention Industry is Resilient

- **1964:** First Purpose-built Convention Center
- **1986 – 2000:** 7.36% Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)
- **2001-2003:** Industry decline
- **2004-2006:** 3.6% to 5.8% annual growth



# Convention Industry is Resilient

cont.

- **2005:** Exhibitions became number one marketing expenditure by U.S based companies surpassing print advertising for the first time in history
- **2006:** Retained number one position
- **2007:** Retained number one position
- Exhibitions are the last bastion of face-to-face marketing



# Our Vision – To Make Dallas Competitive



- Construct a minimum 1,000 room Convention Center Hotel
- Add a minimum of 200,000 square feet of ballroom/meeting space
- Enhance the destination by linking the Convention Center District with Downtown
- Market Dallas as a national convention destination



# Questions?



# Appendix



# Financial Studies

- As previously briefed to this committee, staff will be presenting recommendations within the next month regarding the following:
  - Selection of the Hotel Underwriting Team
  - Selection of the Financial Consultant for consideration of Convention/Event Services debt restructuring
  - Update to the 2001 and 2003 Hotel Market Study

