

# Memorandum

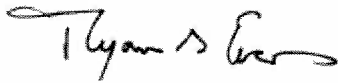


DATE: April 2, 2010

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Dallas Police Helicopter Unit Overview**

Attached is briefing material on the "Dallas Police Helicopter Unit Overview" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, April 5, 2010.



Ryan S. Evans  
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary  
Tom Perkins, City Attorney  
Craig Kinton, City Auditor  
C. Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council



# Dallas Police Helicopter Unit Overview

Public Safety Committee

April 5, 2010



# Mission Statement

- Provide air support to the geographic patrol divisions and specialized units
- Enhance officer and public safety
- Reduce the incidence of crime and thus reduce the fear of crime

# Unit Overview

- Established in 1969
- Fleet of 3 Bell helicopters
- 14 pilots (senior corporals)
- 2 sergeants and 1 lieutenant
- 3 Federal Aviation Administration licensed civilian mechanics
- Provides service 24/7

# Effectiveness of Police Helicopters

- Rapid response
- Provides “birds-eye” view to direct ground officers
- Thermal imaging
- Search light capabilities
- Increased apprehension rate
- Reduces response time
- Reduces number of officers/amount of time on call



# Unit Responsibilities

- Homeland Security (critical infrastructures)
- Surveillance
- Fire/search and rescue operations
- Dignitary protection
- Aerial photography
- Crime prevention
- Traffic management
- Community presentations
- Respond to calls for service
- Special events



# 2009 Activity

- 6,207 calls for service
- 971 arrests
- 336 recovered stolen vehicles
- 67 vehicle pursuits/tactical apprehensions
- 61 missing/lost persons located
- 6 rescues
- 17 fires located
- 115 community presentations
- 3.1 minute average response time

# Recent Grant Acquisition

- Awarded Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant for 750K
  - Airborne downlinking equipment
  - Aircraft equipment upgrades



# Questions?

