

Andy Sommerman Dallas County Commissioner District 2 Newsletter

November 2023



DIWALI CELEBRATION!



On November 7, 2023, Commissioner Sommerman presented a Diwali resolution at Commissioners Court. Through this resolution he recognized the importance of Diwali and its message of good over evil, peace, and love making Diwali even more special for the thousands of South Asians celebrating it.



Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. It marks the start of the Hindu New Year, people clean their homes, decorate their homes, wear nice festive clothes, place clay lamps inside and outside their homes, light fireworks, have feasts, and exchange gifts and good wishes.

Commissioner Sommerman invited Chanda Parbhoo, the Founder and Executive Director of SAAVE Texas, and his constituents to be present as the resolution was read into the record.



Chanda and the rest of the attendees came dressed in various South Asian attire and adorned with pretty jewelry and some had henna applied to their hands. Henna is typically derived from the dried leaves of the henna shrub and is made into a paste and applied to the skin. It used by many South Asians in celebration of special occasions such as Diwali and weddings.

After the resolution, there was a reception in the lobby of the first floor for all Dallas County employees and constituents. Chanda and her team brought Indian snacks, sweets, and drinks such as samosas, kaju katli (made with cashews, diamond shaped), laddus, and chai.



A talented musician played the sitar, which is a plucked stringed instrument developed in the 18th Century that is popular in Northern India. Thank you to Chanda, SAAVE Texas, and everyone who came to celebrate Diwali with the Dallas County Commissioners Court!





Luna Awards

The Regional Hispanic Contractors Association (RHCA) held its annual Luna Awards in Dallas this month. The Luna Awards salute women in Architecture, Engineering, and Construction who demonstrate an entrepreneurial spirit, and dedicate their careers to advancing the industry. Commissioner Sommerman sends his congratulations to everyone who was recognized!



FAMILY GATEWAY TOUR

Family Gateway is a nonprofit organization that provides shelter and resources to help families with children in Dallas and Collin Counties. They accept new families of all kinds -- single parents with kids, families with older male children, multi-generational families, same gender couples with kids, and large families with complex backgrounds.

Family Gateway aims to address the key drivers of homelessness such as affordable housing, quality education, employment opportunities, and strong support systems. Unlike other agencies that operation on a first-come, first-served basis, Family Gateway utilizes its tools and resources to serve families who need their services the most first, which allows them to help more children and families. The Commissioner's staff toured the facility located in

North Dallas, to learn more about the organization and the best way to support its good work in Dallas County.

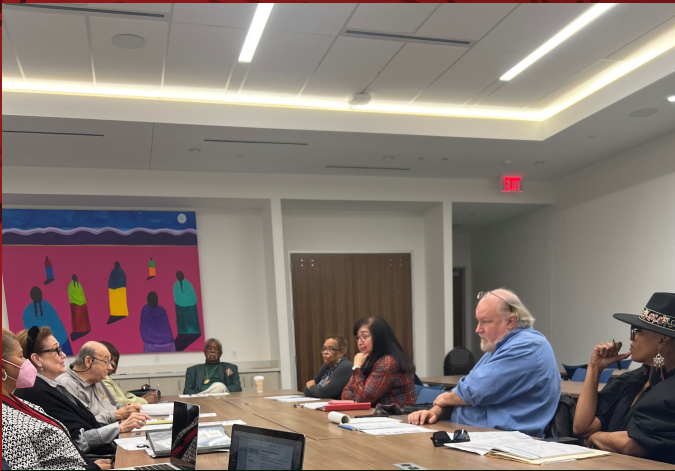




AROUND DISTRICT TWO



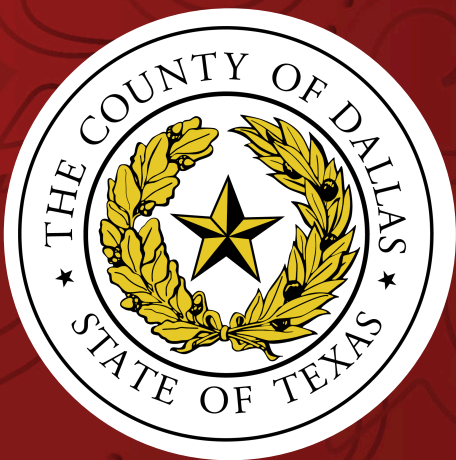
Commissioner Sommerman speaks at a neighborhood association meeting



Dallas County Historical Commission Meeting



Hard at Work in District 2



Commissioners Court Meeting on November 7th



Have Great News in District 2 to add to the newsletter? Would you like Commissioner Sommerman to attend your next neighborhood meeting? Contact us at District2Office@dallascounty.org

Can you find all of these words before Christmas?

Dallas County District 2

Y O V E B N K V K R L O Q W A D T
 K A K L S W O T A Q I O S G B O Z
 E D D Z R W A S W E A T E R S R M
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AGENDA
 MOCKINGBIRD
 ESTERS
 BRIDGE
 RESOLUTION

COMMISSIONER
 SOMMERMAN
 RANGERS
 DIWALI
 THANKSGIVING DAY

ELM ST
 DISTRICT TWO
 SWEATERS
 HOLIDAY