

January 22, 2003

WHEREAS, commercial and residential buildings consume 40 percent of our nation's energy and are responsible for 40 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, commercial and residential buildings contribute 136 million tons of construction and demolition waste annually; and,

WHEREAS, on a global scale, commercial and residential buildings use three billion tons of the planet's raw materials; and,

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that adhering to a Green Building Program will result in design and construction practices that significantly reduce operation and maintenance costs and eliminate the negative impact of buildings on the environment and the occupants of the buildings; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Green Building Council has emerged as the leading standard for designing, constructing and certifying the worlds greenest buildings through its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED trademark) certification system; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas has identified candidate pilot projects and incorporated sustainable ("green") building design and construction practices into the Jack Evans Police Headquarters project and the ecology training center located in the McCommas Bluff Eco-Business Park; and,

WHEREAS, the City has incorporated these practices into several other municipal building projects currently under design, including the Conservation Education Science Center at the Dallas Zoo and the new terminal and tower at Dallas Executive Airport; and,

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2001, the City Council's Health, Environment, and Human Services Committee was briefed on the Green Building Program benefits and initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2002, the City Council was briefed on the Green Building Program benefits and initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas desires to be at the forefront of addressing environmental issues through implementation of a City of Dallas Green Building Program to incorporate sustainable ("green") building design and construction practices into new municipal building projects as well as those facility projects that the City may ultimately own or provide funding for the operating and maintenance costs.

