



**NATIONAL LATINO LAW
ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION**
Dallas Chapter



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As the President of Dallas NLLEO (National Latino Law Enforcement Organization) and board member for the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT) representing 1,300 Dallas Police Officers, I've been working with the City of Dallas on a new contract for our members. The process is well underway and has uncovered evidence of gross financial mismanagement and incompetence on the part of the city. Most concerning is the city's move to force furloughs on employees as a "last resort" while the city maintains a healthy general fund. Laying the blame on public safety is shameful given the fact that Dallas Police officer's compensation is simply not competitive with neighboring cities causing staffing shortages and overtime costs.

A long-term contract that focuses on competitive pay for officers would decrease vacancies and alleviate overtime costs in the budget. The city has experienced an increase in population, evident in the increase in sales tax and ad valorem revenue year over year which places a serious demand on law enforcement responding to calls across the community. Public safety is a high priority for taxpayers and should be treated as such by city leadership. A failure to reach a long-term contract with public safety will only exacerbate the issues we are currently facing.

As we prepare to remember our fallen heroes on July 7th, please remember that your Dallas Police Officers put their lives on the line every day for this community. They are not the problem, they are the backbone of public safety, and our leaders should be investing in them at every step.

Juan Hernandez, Jr.

-President National Latino Law Enforcement Organization