



January 12, 2021

Dear Friend of CitySquare,

Almost 27 years ago, I accepted the position of Executive Director for **Central Dallas Food Pantry**. The first year we opened a new food pantry building on Haskell Avenue in inner-city East Dallas. “*Listening to our customers*” became the operative principle of our strategy. As a result, our programming began to expand, and in those early days, we became **Central Dallas Ministries**. In 2010, to reflect our new position and identity in the city, we became **CitySquare**. Thanks to you and others like you, we’ve seen amazing growth, and we’ve been able to deliver high impact services and development opportunities in East and South Dallas. Reflecting on our history and current opportunities, I can honestly say I believe the best is yet to come!

Now, the time has come for me to transition into a new role with CitySquare. As you may know, Dr. John Siburt has provided leadership in every stage of our succession plan. Since 2015, John has served as President and Chief Operations Officer, while I served as the Chief Executive Officer. As of January 1, John became our President and CEO, and I moved into the new role of CEO Emeritus.

I’m most grateful for this new opportunity extended to me by our Board of Directors and John. My role will be simple but filled with opportunities to support CitySquare and its mission among our neighbors.

So, what will that entail?

I will serve as an *ambassador* for CitySquare. With almost no administrative responsibilities, I look forward to promoting our work to a still expanding community of interest in faith communities, businesses, and corporations, in community organizations, in the public sector, and among philanthropists seeking significant, measurable returns on their charitable investments.

I will serve as an *advisor* to the CitySquare executive team, especially John, as the organization grows. New opportunities and options open to the CitySquare team almost daily, and it will be a pleasure to assist in evaluating strategies, contemplating innovation, and weighing options.

I will serve as an *advocate* for CitySquare and its non-negotiable values: faith, justice, community, and stewardship. Advocacy allows me to be a friend to our incredible neighbors, champion policies to benefit those who battle poverty, discrimination, and hopelessness, and use my voice to support new efforts to improve our work.

I’m excited about this new role that allows me to continue contributing to the organization that is so important to me, and I hope you are as well.

Please know I’m grateful for you. It’s your support that motivates me. I’d love to discuss my new role, answer questions, and join you in plotting our post-COVID 19 world!

For the City,

Larry James, CEO Emeritus