

March 3, 2009

City of DeSoto
Statement
SB 956

The City of DeSoto has been an enthusiastic supporter of the University of North Texas (UNT) - Dallas since the idea of such a university was first introduced by Senator Royce West over ten years ago. In addition to the basic undergraduate program, this area also has the need for a graduate program in Law. The Dallas area is the only major population center in Texas without a Public Law School available to its residents. UNT- Dallas has demonstrated that it is meeting the undergraduate needs of the area; the addition of a Law School would be a welcomed offering of this newest Public University in Texas. The City of DeSoto enthusiastically supports this addition and encourages the funding necessary to develop the new Law School in downtown Dallas.

UNT – Dallas is requesting this session of the legislature approve funding for the second building and for funds necessary to make the transition from a campus of UNT – Denton, to a stand alone university granting its own four-year degree. The “need” threshold established at 1,000 full time equivalent students was exceeded with this spring enrollment and should serve to demonstrate the support ~~Southwest Dallas County has~~ for a four-year university. The City of DeSoto strongly supports and recommends approval of this legislative request for transitional funding and an additional educational facility.

Respectively,



Bobby Waddle
Mayor