

From: [GRA](#)
To: [Maura Gast](#)
Subject: Dallas City Council approves \$52M purchase of old DMN building for convention center
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 5:15:37 AM

EXTERNAL: USE CAUTION when clicking on links and opening attachments!

[Report Suspicious](#)

Dallas City Council approves \$52M purchase of old DMN building for convention center

The City Council voted 13-2, with Mayor Eric Johnson and council member Cara Mendelsohn voting against the purchase.

The Dallas Morning News

By [Devyani Chhetri](#), City Reporter

Apr. 23, 2025, Updated 4:30 p.m. CDT.



The Dallas Morning News' former building, at 508 Young St., is seen on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, in Dallas.

(Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

The Dallas City Council approved buying large portions of the old Dallas Morning News campus for nearly \$52 million Wednesday to save the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center project.

The City Council voted 13-2, with Mayor Eric Johnson and council member Cara Mendelsohn voting against the purchase.

The city has envisioned using the convention center to revamp an otherwise blighted part of downtown. The vote allows city officials to acquire portions of the old newspaper campus and its surrounding area from developer Ray Washburne, who purchased the property for \$28 million in 2019. One of the items authorizes the city to use eminent domain — a tool governments use to acquire private property for public use — if necessary.

Washburne, happy with the deal, told The Dallas Morning News in an earlier interview that he intends to invest “at least \$150 million” in the entertainment and hotel district that the convention center will open up to, which will be anchored by a roughly 200-room hotel.

The vote, which did not include any discussion, brings to a close months of negotiations between the city and the real estate developer.

Earlier this year, Washburne told The News he was planning on [selling the downtown site to an unnamed data firm](#) because he had not heard an update about the city's design plans for the \$3.7 billion convention center. In later interviews, Washburne said he could relocate the data firm to another site he owns if the city was interested in purchasing the property from him.

Washburne's property came into the picture after the city shifted the orientation of the convention center by 90 degrees to avoid conflicts with the Texas Department of Transportation, which has plans to widen Interstate 30 and Union Pacific rail lines, as well as add high speed rail lines to connect Dallas with Houston and Fort Worth.

The developer owns several high-profile properties in Dallas' urban core. His firm purchased the landmark [Founders Square building](#) on Griffin Street near the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center last year. In October, Washburne closed a deal to [purchase the downtown Dallas Greyhound Station](#). His other properties include Knox Street Dallas. The real estate mogul also owns [MCrowd Restaurant Group](#), which is behind TexMex favorite Mi Cocina.

The City Council has been locked in closed session for weeks to deliberate a solution for Washburne's property at 508 Young St. Last year, Inspire Dallas, the firm tapped to manage the project, said [they were exploring a land deal with Washburne](#).

2131 N Collins Ste 433-721
Arlington TX 76011
USA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Change Subscriber Options](#)