

For Immediate Release

February 10, 2020

Plano Citizen Extraordinaire Receives Key to the City



Photo Courtesy of Star Local Media

The Plano City Council presented Dr. Myrtle Hightower with a key to the City at their regular meeting tonight. Dr. Hightower served on many committees and boards throughout Plano, and began a Black History program that has grown to become the annual community-wide MLK Day celebration. She worked in Plano ISD for many years as a teacher and counselor, and also taught at Collin College. Along with her late husband John, Dr. Hightower created the Hightower Foundation scholarship as part of the Collin College Foundation. Because of their resounding voice in the community, Plano ISD named an elementary school after the Hightowers.

Dr. Hightower began her career and her history of community service in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She held many positions in education in Oklahoma, including Dean of Women at her alma mater, Langston University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in English after starting school at just 15 years old. Dr. Hightower also earned a Master of Teaching degree from Northeastern State University and a PhD from the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Hightower has been honored with numerous awards. She was selected as one of Plano ISD's 100 Heroes, is a Collin College Living Legacy and a recipient of the Texas Hero for Children Award. On February 10, 2020, Dr. Hightower was designated a Plano Citizen Extraordinaire by the Plano City Council.

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Editor's Note: Go to the City's [Media Center](#) for comprehensive information about the City of Plano.

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About Plano

Plano, Texas, is the largest city in Collin County with a population of 284,070 as of January 2019. Incorporated in 1873, the city is located 20 miles north of Dallas. Niche and AreaVibes recently named Plano as one of the Best Cities to Live in America. Forbes designated Plano one of America's safest cities. The City offers a high quality of life that includes nationally recognized schools, award-winning parks, and sustainability initiatives and a wide variety of multi-cultural neighborhoods appealing to families, young singles and retirees. Plano is home to the headquarters or regional operations of major corporations such as Toyota, Liberty Mutual, JPMorgan Chase, Boeing Global Services, Fannie Mae, FedEx Office, JC Penney, Rent-A-Center, Cinemark Holdings, Denbury Resources and Alliance Data Systems. Our dynamic community features excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping and entertainment venues, a lively historic downtown district and active local arts scene. Easy access to DART light rail and major highways makes Plano a convenient place to live, work and visit. To learn more about Plano, go to our website at plano.gov.