



MICHAEL S. RAWLINGS
MAYOR

January 30, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop: Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Via email: satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

**Re: *"Request for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices
For the Nationwide Workforce Program" Notice to Public
Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 229 (Tuesday, November 29, 2011)***

Dear Mr. Khan:

While you have already received a submission on this subject on behalf of several organizations in the Dallas area via the Dallas Bar Association Intellectual Property Law Section (submitted via email January 24, 2012), please accept my personal invitation to consider the City of Dallas for a USPTO satellite office to be established under Section 23 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. The Dallas Bar Association enumerated a what makes the Dallas area an ideal location for a satellite Patent Office. All of the facts presented in that letter are accurate and appropriate reasons to consider the Dallas area. However, I would argue it is our culture that really separates us.

The entrepreneurial spirit defines our area. With a history of innovation in areas such as technology, aerospace, communications and the arts, Dallas is an ideal fit for the USPTO. Our large and growing workforce includes thousands of individuals working on projects such as smart phone applications, medical device innovations, semiconductor fabrication and many other new and emerging technologies. In addition, a number of area incubators foster entrepreneurial development. The BioCenter at UT Southwestern Medical District is facilitating the commercialization of biomedical technologies and medical device development.

Our educational institutions are also involved with incubators and entrepreneurial development. The Guildhall at Southern Methodist University is the premier graduate video game education program in the US. Many of the school's founders are industry icons, and its classes are run by industry veterans. Also at SMU, the Caruth Institute for Entrepreneurship has continuously development innovative courses and programs to help keep pace with the dynamic field of entrepreneurship. Another education based incubator, The Discover Park Incubator at the University of North Texas assists emerging companies commercialize locally developed

technologies. Through its partnership with The Murphy Center for Entrepreneurship and the Center for Economic Development and Research UNT's Incubator provides client companies with access to its network of experienced entrepreneurs, professional service providers, economic development partners and university experts.

The education commitment does not begin in college however. The School of Science and Engineering Magnet in Dallas is the top rated public high school in America by both *Newsweek* magazine (June 2011) and the *Washington Post* (May 2011). The school has achieved international recognition with its Advanced Placement Program and excels in helping students succeed in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the world.

Commitment to the arts is another trait that exemplifies our creative drive. Dallas is home to the largest Arts District in the nation – The Dallas Arts District is 68 acres and contains existing and planned world-class facilities. The Nasher Sculpture Center, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Winspear Opera House, the Dallas Symphony Hall and the Crow Collection of Asian Art are examples of the commitment of Dallas and its citizens to a strong arts and creative culture.

I particularly urge you to consider our vibrant downtown for a USPTO Satellite Office. We have a number of wonderful buildings in our central business district that would make a terrific home for the USPTO Satellite Office. All are close to, if not directly connected to our commuter rail system, the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). DART currently provides 72 miles of rail service with 55 stations. Passengers took nearly 18 million trips in 2010. As you know, Executive Order 12072 states the following:

“1-103. Except where such selection is otherwise prohibited, the process for meeting Federal space needs in urban areas shall give first consideration to a centralized community business area and adjacent areas of similar character, including other specific areas which may be recommended by local officials.

1-104. The process of meeting Federal space needs in urban areas shall be consistent with the policies of this Order and shall include consideration of the following criteria:

- (a) Compatibility of the site with State, regional, or local development, redevelopment, or conservation objectives.
- (b) Conformity with the activities and programs of other Federal agencies.
- (c) Impact on economic development and employment opportunities in the urban area, including the utilization of human, natural, cultural, and community resources.
- (d) Availability of adequate low and moderate income housing for Federal employees and their families on a nondiscriminatory basis.
- (e) Availability of adequate public transportation and parking and accessibility to the public.”

Consistent with this Executive Order and with current federal policy that seeks to coordinate investments in housing and infrastructure, the City of Dallas has an ambitious program to expand the supply of workforce housing both Downtown and adjacent to our DART light rail stations.

On behalf of our wonderful community, I and the Dallas City Council look forward to welcoming the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Dallas. We stand ready to answer any questions you may have, and look forward to working with you and your team to facilitate a smooth and successful transition into our community. Please contact me if we may be of assistance as you make your decision.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Rawlings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and "R".

Michael S. Rawlings
Mayor