

The Dallas Morning News

Leading News Source

\$3.99

Dallas, Texas, Sunday, October 11, 2020

DallasNews.com

DESOTO

Mayor reveals she has lung cancer

'With your help, and God's, we can do this,' she says during meeting

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Special Contributor

DeSoto Mayor Curtistene McCowan has been diagnosed with lung cancer, she said during a council meeting that was held via Zoom on Tuesday.

"Those who know me are aware that I am a fighter. If there is a cause that I believe is worth fighting for, I'm on it,"



CURTISTENE
MCCOWAN

she said. "And those of you who know me are also aware that I have an unusual amount of energy, so when I get tired or don't put in the time and energy that I normally do on an issue, something's up."

"Well, something is up."

McCowan said that a week earlier, she contacted her physician after having trouble breathing. The initial diagnosis was pneumonia, and she was sent home after spending two days in the hospital.

When her condition did not improve, doctors ran additional tests and discovered cancer.

"I immediately met with my

doctors and later with their oncologists, and we all agreed on a course of action that will attack the illness while allowing me to fight it and maintain a semi-normal routine," McCowan said. "That's important to me. There will be days that will seem normal, days where I will need to lay low, and days that fall somewhere in between."

Because of the diagnosis, McCowan said, DeSoto residents might not see her as much, but she will minimize that to the best of her ability.

Mayor Pro Tem Kenzie Moore will take over council meetings if needed, McCowan said.

"I've always said that when we work together, there's nothing that we can't accomplish," McCowan said. "But I will add that when we pray together, we can move a mountain. With your help, and God's, we can do this."

Council members echoed one another in their support for the mayor and their prayers for her health and recovery.

"We want you to know that our hands are stretched to you, but moreso we're stretching up to God," council member Dinah Marks said. "We thank you for your tenacity and for your leadership."