

# Hip-Hop Legend Rob Base (Robert Ginyard), 1967–2026, Passes Hip-Hop Legend Rob Base

By Villager staff

**(HIP-HOP)** - Rob Base, the Harlem-born hip-hop pioneer whose voice helped define an era and whose music moved generations, died on May 22, 2026, at the age of 59 after a private battle with cancer.

A foundational figure in late 1980s hip-hop, Base rose to international fame as one half of **Rob Base & DJ E Z Rock**, the duo behind the 1988 smash **"It Takes Two,"** a track that not only became one of the most recognizable party anthems in music history but also helped propel hip-hop into the mainstream. The single peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard Hot Dance/Club Songs chart and later earned platinum certification, cementing its place as a cultural touchstone.

Born **Robert Ginyard** in Harlem, Base met his future collaborator Rodney "DJ E Z Rock" Bryce in grade school. Their partnership—rooted in neighborhood friendship and a shared love of the emerging hip-hop sound—produced not only "It Takes Two" but also enduring tracks such as **"Joy and Pain"** and **"Get on the Dance Floor."** Their music became



**Robert Ginyard**

a soundtrack for clubs, block parties, and radio stations across the country, influencing artists from Snoop Dogg to the Black Eyed Peas.

Base's death was announced in a statement on his official Instagram account, which noted that he passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. The message honored him as a **loving father, family man, friend, and creative force** whose impact "will never be forgotten." Fans and fellow artists flooded social media with tributes, remembering his generosity, his energy, and the joy his music brought to millions.

Just days before his passing, Base celebrated his 59th birthday with a message of gratitude: "God thank you for allowing me to see another year." That final post has since become a gathering place for grief, remembrance, and celebration of a life that shaped the sound of a generation.

Rob Base's legacy is one of innovation, rhythm, and cultural influence. His voice—instantly recognizable, endlessly sampled, and forever tied to the golden era of hip-hop—will continue to echo in clubs, concerts, films, and memories for decades to come.

**He is survived by his family, his fans, and a musical legacy that changed the course of hip-hop.**

## Crockett's Quiet Power Move Puts Talarico on Notice

By Villager staff

**(VILLAGER)** - The latest Democratic primary in North Texas didn't just settle a congressional nomination—it reopened a wound the party has tried, and failed, to stitch shut. When voters in Texas's 32nd Congressional District chose Colin Allred over incumbent Julie Johnson, they also handed U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett a symbolic victory over State Rep. James Talarico, her former Senate rival whose relationship with Black voters remains strained after a bruising primary season. Allred was Crockett's pick; Johnson was Talarico's. And when Crockett's FIRE PAC celebrated Allred's win, it was clear the political reckoning between these two Democrats is far from over.

Their rift began in the Senate primary, when Talarico—who is white—was accused of calling Allred a "mediocre Black man," a charge he denied but one Crockett immediately recognized as tapping into a deeper anxiety among Black Texans about what is said behind closed doors. That moment didn't just sour a race; it exposed a fault line in a party that depends on Black voters, especially Black



women, while too often sidelining them from leadership. Crockett named that fear plainly, and many voters heard her.

Strategists quoted in the story insist the Allred-Johnson race wasn't simply a rematch of the Crockett-Talarico feud, pointing instead to long standing political relationships and mid cycle redistricting that forced the contest. But optics matter in politics, and the optics here are unmistakable: Crockett's influence with Black Texans remains strong, while Talarico is still working to repair trust with the very voters he now needs most.

That urgency is real. Talarico is the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate, facing Trump aligned Republican Ken Paxton in November. If Democrats want to break a 30 year losing streak in statewide

politics, they cannot afford a fractured coalition. Political consultant Zoe Cadore warns that lingering resentment among Black voters—especially Black women who feel the party leans on their labor but rarely elevates their leadership—could cost Democrats dearly if not addressed head on.

Talarico has begun outreach: campaigning with Barack Obama, speaking at an HBCU commencement, and unveiling a plan to address Black maternal mortality. But outreach is not the same as reconciliation. Crockett has not endorsed him, and her silence speaks loudly in a state where Black voters are the largest such population in the country.

If Democrats want to flip Texas, they must confront the truth this race exposed: unity cannot be demanded—it must be earned.



Travis County Health and Human Services  
P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767  
(512) 854-3460 Fax (512) 854-7140

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (HOME)

Invitation to Comment on Substantial Amendments to the  
PY24-PY28 ConPlan and PY24 Action Plan and PY25 Action Plan

Travis County receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds, to benefit low- to moderate-income residents within the Travis County CDBG/HOME service area.

Travis County is proposing a Substantial Amendment to the PY24-PY28 Consolidated Plan, the PY24 Action Plan, and the PY25 Action Plan. The amendment includes incorporating Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding as required per 24 CFR 576.200(b); expanding program priorities to allow for a broader range of eligible activities that address current community needs; removing an infeasible CDBG project and reallocating those funds in accordance with HUD regulations and program requirements; and updating a PY25 infrastructure project to shift funding from design and engineering to construction based on the revised scope.

In accordance with Sections IV.B.6 and IV.C.7 of the Travis County Citizen Participation Plan, a substantial amendment is required when an unforeseen need arises or when funds are reallocated to a different project type or in an amount exceeding \$24,999. This process includes a public notice published at least fourteen (14) days before the start of the public comment period, a 30-day public comment period, and a public hearing. All public comments will be documented and considered prior to final approval by the Travis County Commissioners Court.

**COMMENT PERIOD AND DRAFT DOCUMENT**

Comments will be accepted for 30 days **beginning June 17, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. and ending July 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** Beginning June 17, 2026, the draft Substantial Amendment to the PY24-PY28 Consolidated Plan and PY24 Action Plan, along with a summary, will be available for public review and download at: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/cdbg>, and will also be available for review at the six Travis County Community Centers listed below:

Travis County Community Center at Del Valle	3518-D FM South 973, Del Valle, TX 78617
Travis County Community Center at Pflugerville	15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg. D, Pflugerville, TX 78660
Travis County Community Center at Oak Hill	8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A, Austin, TX 78735
Travis County Community Center at Jonestown	18649 FM 1431, Jonestown, TX 78645
Travis County Community Center at Manor	600 W. Carrie Manor, Manor, TX 78653
Travis County Community Center at Central Austin	5325 Airport Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78751

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The public may provide comments by participating in a Public Hearing scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2026**, during a regular Travis County Commissioners Court session, which typically begins at approximately 9:00 a.m., at the Travis County Commissioners Courtroom, 700 Lavaca St., First Floor, Austin, Texas 78701. Members of the public who wish to participate may appear in person or register in advance to speak remotely. Registration instructions, including deadlines, are available on the Commissioners Court webpage: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/commissioners-court>. The public may view the public hearing online at: <https://travisctx.civicclerk.com/web/home.aspx>. The link will be active at the time the Commissioners Court session begins.

**MAILING COMMENTS**

The public may also submit comments by mail or email to: CDBG/HOME Program, Travis County HHS, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767; [cdbg@traviscountytx.gov](mailto:cdbg@traviscountytx.gov).

Travis County is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please call 512-854-3460 for assistance. To request that an American Sign Language or Spanish interpreter be present at the public hearing, please contact CDBG staff at least five business days in advance.



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TRAVIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (HOME)

Invitation to Comment on the PY26 Action Plan

Travis County is eligible to receive an estimated \$1,787,382 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and an estimated \$567,775.74 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program ("HOME") funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to benefit Travis County low- to moderate-income residents who live in the unincorporated areas of the county or anywhere in Bee Cave, Creedmoor, Lago Vista, Lakeway, Manor, San Leanna, Sunset Valley, Webberville, and West Lake Hills. The funds are for Program Year 2026 (PY26), October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027. An Annual Action Plan has been drafted detailing how the funds will be spent in PY26.

You can comment on the proposed PY26 Action Plan by attending the public hearing or by sending your comments in writing via postal mail or e-mail.

**COMMENT PERIOD AND DRAFT DOCUMENT**

Comments will be accepted for 30 days **beginning June 17, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. and ending July 20, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** Beginning June 17, 2026, a draft of the proposed Action Plan and a related summary will be available for download on the Travis County CDBG webpage at <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/cdbg> or available for review at any of the six Travis County Community Centers listed below:

Travis County Community Center at Del Valle	3518-D FM South 973, Del Valle, TX 78617
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Travis County Community Center at Central Austin	5325 Airport Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78751

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The public can provide their comments by participating in a Public Hearing scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** at Travis County Commissioners Courtroom, 700 Lavaca St., First Floor, Austin, Texas 78701. Members of the public who wish to participate may appear in person or register in advance to speak remotely. The online registration portal will be open from 8:00 p.m. two nights before the meeting until 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Information and links to the registration form are available on the Commissioners Court webpage at: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/commissioners-court>. The public can view the public hearing session online via a link that will be active by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the public hearing, by clicking on the Commissioners Court Voting Session link for the public hearing date at: <https://travisctx.civicclerk.com/web/home.aspx>.

**MAILING YOUR COMMENTS**

The public can also mail their comments to: CDBG Program, Travis County, HHS, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767 or e-mail them to the CDBG program at: [cdbg@traviscountytx.gov](mailto:cdbg@traviscountytx.gov)

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