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## Why Toyota of Lewisville got a new owner

Dallas Cowboys fan Robert L. Johnson bought his fourth North Texas car dealership for many reasons.

Buying Toyota of Lewisville from Rene Isip adds to the dealerships the Washington, D.C.-area businessman owns in Fort Worth, Burleson and Waxahachie. The 74,000-square-foot Lewisville dealership employs 125 people.

He said the dealership has a great history and location along Interstate 35E.

"We always want to be in markets where the economy is growing and people are looking to buy new cars, buy used cars because there's credit available and they have the wherewithal to purchase new cars," Johnson said. "We're going to be building on the reputation of the previous owner."

The fact that owning the dealership gives him another reason to visit North Texas and catch America's Team at AT&T Stadium is just the icing on the cake.

Johnson played football at the University of Illinois at the same time former running back Preston Pearson played there. The two were also teammates in high school.

Pearson would go on to play for 14 years in the National Football League, including six years with the Dallas Cowboys. Johnson followed Pearson's career and became a Cowboys fan during the years in the late 1970s.

He remembers being in the press box for AT&T Stadium's opening night in 2009 with Dallas Cowboys owner/general manager Jerry Jones and former President George W. Bush. Now he'll have more reasons to visit.

"It was enjoyable to be there on that opening night," he said.

Toyota has been raising its profile in North Texas, just this week announcing a naming rights deal with FC Dallas Stadium in Frisco.

Johnson is the chairman of RLJ McLarty Landers Automotive Holdings LLC, the parent company for RML Automotive, based in Little Rock, Ark.

RML Automotive owns 35 dealerships throughout the country.



**The Toyota of Lewisville dealership got a new out-of-state owner who is a big Dallas Cowboys fan.**