

# Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance Meeting Record

The Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com). Recordings may be reviewed online at <https://dallastx.swagit.com/ad-hoc-committees>.  
**Note: This meeting was conducted via videoconference to comply with a social distancing mandate during a declared state of disaster.**

**Meeting Date:** February 11, 2021

**Convened:** 1:32 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 3:56 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Casey Thomas, Chair  
Tennell Atkins  
David Blewett  
Jennifer S. Gates  
Cara Mendelsohn  
Jaime Resendez  
Omar Narvaez

**Committee Members Absent:**

N/A

**Other Council Members Present:**

## **AGENDA**

### **CALL TO ORDER (1:32 p.m.)**

**1. Approval of the January 14, 2021 Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance Meeting Minutes**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** A motion was made to approve the minutes for the January 14, 2021 Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance meeting. The motion passed.

Motion made by: CM Jaime Resendez

Motion seconded by: CM Jennifer S. Gates

### **BRIEFING ITEMS WITHOUT ACTION**

**A. COVID-19 Vaccine, Testing, and Data Update**

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Phil Huang, Director, Dallas County Health and Human Services; Dr. Timothy Bray, Director, Institute for Urban Policy Research, University of Texas at Dallas; Rocky Vaz, Director, Office of Emergency Management

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** The region's health experts gave updates on COVID-19 vaccine, testing, and data efforts in the City of Dallas and Dallas County. Ad Hoc Committee members discussed and asked questions on several topics, including the prevalence and containment of the B.1.1.7 coronavirus variant, vaccine distribution by zip code, communications regarding the vaccine, allocation of vaccine doses, equity in vaccine distribution, efforts to mobilize vaccine distribution, source of data for vaccine distribution efforts, ICU bed capacity, and more. Information only.

**B. Update on Vaccine Administration Contracts**

**Presenter(s):** Rocky Vaz, Director, Office of Emergency Management; Chhunny Chhean, Director, Procurement Services

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Director Vaz provided an update on efforts to procure vendors for vaccine distribution. Ad Hoc Committee members asked questions about alternative distribution methods to reach hard-to-reach populations and communications with volunteers at vaccine distribution sites. Information only.

**C. Bridging the Digital Divide – Project Updates**

**Presenter(s):** Genesis D. Gavino, Resilience Officer, Office of Equity & Inclusion

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Officer Gavino provided an update on several projects and programs that various City departments are executing to bridge the digital divide in Dallas. Ad Hoc Committee members discussed and asked questions on several topics, including door hangers to inform residents about the digital navigators program, if other cities are taking the same approach as Dallas, how the City can improve its

efforts, communication to residents in Spanish, funding sources for various programs, target outreach numbers for the digital navigators program, and more. CM Atkins requested that staff provide information on how various ISDs utilized the City's matching funds for the Texas Education Agency's Bulk Ordering Program and a timeline for door hanger deployment and streetlight upgrades. CM Narvaez requested that staff explore refurbishing City-owned hardware for distribution to families. CM Gates requested information from staff on the type of technology available at the new Vickery Meadow Branch Library. Information only.

**D. Rapid Rehousing Program Report**

**Presenter(s):** Kelly Hunt, Program Administrator, Office of Homeless Solutions

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Ms. Hunt provided information on the Rapid Rehousing program, including goals of the program, performance, and lessons learned. Ad Hoc Committee members discussed and asked questions about the timeline of the program, monitoring of the program contracts, program reports, the process for entry and exit from the program, and employment. Information only.

**BRIEFING MEMORANDUM WITH ACTION**

**E. Update on Rental Assistance Programming Dollars**

**Presenter(s):** Jessica Galleshaw, Director, Office of Community Care

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** There was no discussion on this item. A motion was made to approve and recommend to the City Council two rental and mortgage assistance program grants: the 1) Emergency Solutions Grant – Homelessness Prevention (CARES Act) and 2) CV-COVID-19 Community Development Block Grant Emergency Assistance Program (CARES Act). The motion passed.

Motion made by: CM Omar Narvaez

Motion seconded by: CM Tennell Atkins

**BRIEFING MEMORANDUM WITHOUT ACTION**

**F. Monitoring and Enforcement of Current City Emergency Regulations and Executive and County Orders**

**Presenter(s):** Carl Simpson, Director, Code Compliance Services

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** There was no discussion on this item. Information only.

**ADJOURN (3:56 p.m.)**

**APPROVED BY:**

**ATTESTED BY:**

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**Casey Thomas, Chair**  
Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19  
Recovery and Assistance

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**Sommer Iqbal, Coordinator**  
Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19  
Recovery and Assistance