

Workforce, Education and Equity Committee Meeting Record

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The Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee meetings are recorded.
Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com. Recordings may be reviewed online at <https://dallas.tx.syradi.com/city-council>.
Note: This meeting was conducted via teleconference to comply with a social distancing mandate during a declared state of disaster.

Meeting Date: August 10, 2020

Convened: 9:01 a.m.

Adjourned: 11:02 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

CM Casey Thomas, Chair
CM Jaime Resendez, Vice Chair
MPT Adam Medrano
CM Lee Kleinman
CM Paula Blackmon

Committee Members Absent:

N/A

Presenters:

Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office
Elizabeth Saab, External Affairs Manager, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs
Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion, City Manager's Office
Genesis Gavino, Resilience Officer, Office of Resilience
Beverly Davis, Director, Office of Fair Housing and Human Rights

Other Council Members Present:

DMPT Adam McGough

AGENDA

Call to Order (9:01 a.m.)

A. Approval of the June 8, 2020 Workforce, Education and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes

Presenter(s): Chair Casey Thomas

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): A motion was made to approve the minutes for the June 11, 2020 Workforce, Education and Equity Committee meeting minutes.

Motion made by: Vice Chair Jaime Resendez

Motion seconded by: CM Paula Blackmon

Item passed unanimously: X

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed unanimously:

Item failed on a divided vote:

B. 2020 Census Update

Presenters: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office; Elizabeth Saab, External Affairs Manager, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Chair Thomas and Chief Tolbert provided brief introductions to the presentation, highlighting the new 2020 Census deadline of September 30, 2020 and the need to ensure a complete Census count within the shortened deadline. Ms. Saab provided an overview of the Census self-response rates in each district, ground outreach efforts shifting to virtual engagement during COVID-19, Census staff efforts, action items for City Council members, and updates on the Census vendor's work and contract. Committee members asked questions about engagement of enumerators, Census district ambassadors, and the faith-based community; outreach via social media and billboards; phone banking and block walking efforts; micro-targeting strategies in low response rate districts; response rate analysis by voter registration data; accountability measures for the Census vendor; and specific details about the vendor contract. Chair Thomas requested staff to provide the Census vendor contract to the Committee members and Vice Chair Resendez requested information on the use of CARES Act funding for the City's Census efforts. Information only.

C. Equity and Inclusion Efforts Update

Presenters: Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion, City Manager's Office; Genesis Gavino, Resilience Officer, Office of Resilience; Beverly Davis, Director, Office of Fair Housing and Human Rights

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Staff provided an overview of equity and inclusion efforts in the City. Highlights include:

- Officer Gavino provided a walkthrough of the Resilient Dallas Strategy webpage (https://dallascityhall.com/departments/pnv/resilient_dallas/Pages/default-new.aspx) and the Dallas Equity Indicators webpage (<https://dallascityhall.com/departments/pnv/dallas-equity-indicators/Pages/home.aspx>). Chair Thomas requested that the webpages in the presentation be provided to the Committee members via e-mail. He also asked how the Resilient Dallas Strategy can be highlighted and enhanced in the Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 biennial budget.
- Director Davis provided an overview of the Office of Fair Housing and Human Rights' (FHHR) Eviction Assistance Initiative (EAI). The EAI will provide legal support to prevent evictions and assist in preventing homelessness. FHHR is developing a Request for Applications for non-profit legal service organizations, law firms, or law school legal clinics to provide legal support and representation to residential tenants who may face loss of housing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and CARES Act funding in the amount of \$500,000 will be utilized. This item will be going for Council consideration on the September 23rd Council agenda date. Chair Thomas requested information on the eviction protection provisions in President Trump's Executive Order issued on August 8, 2020.
- Chief Cedillo-Pereira provided an overview of the Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs' (WCIA) work. WCIA established the City of Dallas Emma Lazarus Resilience Fund (ELRF), a public-private effort providing \$500,000 in financial assistance to Dallas immigrant and refugee individuals and families who are impacted by COVID-19 and ineligible for federal COVID-19 relief programs. Non-profit organizations will be selected to provide one-time support of \$500 - \$1,000 per family. Chief Cedillo-Pereira also provided a walkthrough of the Community Resources Hub (<https://communityresources.dallascityhall.com/>), an online platform that lists free or reduced-cost social services, such as COVID-19 assistance programs, English literacy, food, transit, financial assistance, healthcare, education, work, immigration and legal services. Vice Chair Resendez asked questions about the ELRF non-profit application and when the funding will be available to residents.
- Officer Gavino provided an overview of the City's and the Office of Resilience's efforts to bridge the digital divide. \$10 million in CARES Act funding has been allocated to fund several interdepartmental internet equity efforts. Specifically, the Office of Resilience is developing an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Dallas Independent School District and other stakeholders to share in the cost of contracting an independent telecommunications consultant. The consultant will conduct a technical feasibility study for developing a network to connect students in their homes. The ILA will be going for Council consideration on the August 26th Council agenda date. In addition, the Office of Resilience is developing a digital navigators pilot program for digital literacy programming community engagement. This item will be up for Council consideration on the September 9th Council agenda date. Committee members asked questions about the telecommunications consultant, how CARES Act funding will be used, the use of e-rate funding, and the deployment of digital divide services. CM Kleinman requested a map displaying internet access gaps overlaid with a market value analysis and the racial and ethnical concentrated areas of poverty (RECAP) map. Chair Thomas requested a more detailed discussion on Resilience 2.0 and the FY21 biennial budget.

Information only.

Adjourn (11:02 a.m.)

APPROVED BY:

Casey Thomas

Casey Thomas, Chair
Workforce, Education & Equity Committee

ATTESTED BY:

Sommer Iqbal

Sommer Iqbal, Coordinator
Workforce, Education & Equity Committee