

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

The Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Human and Social Recovery and Assistance meetings are recorded.
Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com. Recordings may be reviewed online at <https://dallastx.swagit.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: April 30, 2020

Convened: 1:05 p.m.

Adjourned: 3:18 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

DMPT Adam McGough, Chair
CM Cara Mendelsohn
CM Jennifer Gates
CM Carolyn King Arnold
CM Omar Narvaez
CM David Blewett
CM Jaime Resendez

Committee Members Absent:

N/A

Presenters:

Bob Bowsby, Commissioner, NCAA Big 12 Conference
Neil Leibman, Chairman of the Ownership Committee and Chief
Operating Officer, Texas Rangers
Mark Cuban, Owner, Dallas Mavericks and Advisory Member,
Opening Our Country Council
Dr. Timothy Bray, The Institute for Urban Policy Research,
University of Texas at Dallas
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Jill Haning, Executive Assistant City Attorney and Chief of
Community Prosecution, City Attorney's Office
Carl Simpson, Director, Code Compliance Services
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Oden, Interim Director, Office of Homeless Solutions

Other Council Members Present:

CM Casey Thomas
CM Chad West
CM Adam Bazaldua

AGENDA

Call to Order (1:05 p.m.)

1. Approval of the April 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Presenter(s): Chair Adam McGough

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): A motion was made to approve the minutes for the April 23, 2020 Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Human and Social Recovery and Assistance meeting.

Motion made by: CM Omar Narvaez
Item passed unanimously: X
Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by: CM Cara Mendelsohn
Item passed on a divided vote:
Item failed on a divided vote:

BRIEFING ITEMS

2. Sports and Entertainment Industry Preparation for Re-Openings

Presenter(s): Bob Bowsby, Commissioner, NCAA Big 12 Conference; Neil Leibman, Chairman of the Ownership Committee and Chief Operating Officer, Texas Rangers

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Commissioner Bowsby provided an update on collegiate athletics and the NCAA Big 12 Conference operations in light of COVID-19. He stated that professional leagues, colleges, and universities are determining how to go back to competing and opening up campuses while safeguarding the safety of student athletes. Chair McGough asked the Commissioner for best practices on reopening and advice for how local leaders can help. Commissioner Bowsby stated that he will be looking for guidance from medical experts and scientists to determine best practices to apply to campuses. He emphasized the need for greater testing so that student athletes can be tested frequently. He also stated that the City needs to consider safety measures for the State Fair of Texas and the annual Texas vs. Oklahoma University football game, as it is a huge economic driver and cultural event for the state that draws large crowds. Mr. Leibman provided an update on the new Texas Rangers Stadium (Globe Life Field in Arlington, TX) and the Texas Rangers Youth Academy at West Dallas, which are both closed due to COVID-19. He also stated that the Texas Rangers office will open on May 4, 2020 and employees will practice social distancing, temperatures will be taken upon entering the building, and childcare services will be provided. Chair McGough asked Mr. Leibman what he is looking at in terms of reopening and how the City can help the Rangers. Mr. Leibman stated that he is waiting for more scientific and medical data and widely available testing to open back up in the next week or so. Information only.

3. Current State of Business, Entrepreneurship, and Industry Guidelines

Presenter(s): Mark Cuban, Owner, Dallas Mavericks and Advisory Member, Opening Our Country Council

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Mr. Cuban discussed small business considerations for reopening and stated that specific reopening protocols for all types of businesses are still needed so employees and customers feel safe. He also discussed other reopening considerations, including extending restaurant delivery and take out options, ensuring that social distancing takes place on public transportation, and unemployment benefits. He stated that the National Basketball Association (NBA) gave the Dallas Mavericks permission to open up facilities with minimal players and staff, and initial games will be played without fans. He stated that the NBA led the way in closing sports tournaments and they intend to safely lead moving forward. CM Gates asked Mr. Cuban what the most important metric to track is as the City looks at reopening. Mr. Cuban said that he is looking at hospital capacity, number of tests and results of tests, number of deaths relative to the yearly average, and new emerging symptoms of COVID-19. Chair McGough asked how the City can help his efforts. In response, Mr. Cuban emphasized the need to set consistent standards so that people have confidence in Dallas businesses. Information only.

4. Understanding COVID-19 in Dallas Through Data Modeling

Presenter(s): Dr. Timothy Bray, The Institute for Urban Policy Research, University of Texas at Dallas

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Dr. Bray displayed a developing interactive data dashboard that collects regional hospital data from the North Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. Based on this data, he has found that hospital beds across North Texas are at 56 percent occupancy and ventilators are at 33 percent occupancy. He stated that the goal is to show what healthcare resources look like in the past week and what the future trends will look like. He then displayed the North Texas COVID-19 Data Viewer, which can be accessed at <https://urbanpolicyresearch.org/covid19>, and stated that the region needs to decide what the target infection doubling time should be to inform policy decisions. CM Mendelsohn asked Dr. Bray what data he wishes he had. He said that he needs race, age, ethnicity, and gender data, which is not reported nationally. Age data is reported by county health departments across the region in different aggregations. He stated that the data needs to be reported consistently to determine the disparate impacts of COVID-19 on diverse groups and communities. He further stated that the data modeling group he serves on is developing reporting standards for all counties in the region to adhere to. CM Gates emphasized that data is critical for public safety and should be shared with residents to use as a reference for decision making. Information only.

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

Presenter(s): Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager; Chris Caso, City Attorney; Jill Haning, Executive Assistant City Attorney and Chief of Community Prosecution, City Attorney's Office; Carl Simpson, Director, Code Compliance Services; Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Assistant City Manager Fortune provided an update on the City's coordinated efforts to monitor and enforce the City and County's emergency orders, including how Code Compliance Services and the City Attorney's Office processes involuntary compliance with the Amended Emergency Regulations (AER), and how operations are changing in response to the Governor's Plan to Open Texas. Chair McGough prompted a discussion about staff recommendations for enforcement of involuntary compliance cases. Staff stated that the current operations are the most efficient use of resources and time to enforce the AER. CM Mendelsohn asked Director Simpson to look into issued notices of violation regarding littering. CM Gates stated that it is critical to continue educating property and business owners and residents regarding the AER and the Governor's Plan to Open Texas. Chair McGough asked staff about reopening aquatic facilities. CM Arnold asked for Code Compliance Services' plan to address code complaints in neighborhoods, including illegal dumping. Information only.

6. Focus Area Reports from Committee Members

Presenter(s): CM Cara Mendelsohn; Kevin Oden, Interim Director, Office of Homeless Solutions; CM Jennifer Gates; CM Carolyn King Arnold; CM Omar Narvaez; CM Jaime Resendez; CM David Blewett; Michael Rogers, Director, Transportation; Chair Adam McGough

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): The Committee members reported on their respective focus areas and projects.

- CM Mendelsohn invited Director Oden to give an update on the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Temporary Overnight Shelter, the Dallas Life hotel operations, and a proposed agenda item that would provide emergency shelter funding that would offset the cost of current operations. He stated that the item will be presented to the Ad Hoc Committee for consideration. Committee members asked questions about an encampment behind the Convention Center and encampments on freeway overpasses. CM Mendelsohn also stated that closing the digital divide is one of the biggest challenges residents face and it should be addressed in the upcoming budget cycle.
- CM Gates provided an update on domestic violence. She stated that the Dallas Police Department is seeing a month to month increase in domestic violence cases, and a particular concern is that victims are unable to reach out to service providers as they shelter-in-place with offenders. She also stated that she is seeing an increase in lethal offenses. CM Gates encouraged people to call 911 and reach out to service providers, report abuse if they see it ("See Something, Say Something"), and donate sanitation supplies and personal protective equipment to shelters.
- CM Arnold provided an update on her work with the Dallas Police Department, and particularly the South-Central station, to share COVID-19 resources and information with residents. She also addressed Code-related issues she is seeing in neighborhoods, including high weeds, snakes, and illegal dumping. She stated that Code enforcement officers need to direct resources towards neighborhood operations. In addition, CM Arnold discussed the Governor's Plan to Open Texas and the need for centralized messaging and continued education on the AER.
- CM Narvaez also discussed Code-related issues, including the need to address illegal dumping in South and West Dallas. He then provided an update on his work to address the needs of seniors. He stated that the Dallas Public Library is calling 9,000 seniors over the age of seventy that are served by the library. 1,200 calls were made to seniors by library staff at home. Staff had 450 conversations with seniors, and many of them asked about chronic illnesses and computer classes. In addition, library staff will be reaching hard-to-count communities to encourage Census participation.
- CM Blewett stated that the City needs to open up parks and recreation centers, so people can spend time outside. He also stated that arts groups are allowed to open at 25 percent, per the Governor's Plan to Open Texas, but many will choose to open slowly and methodically. He requested information from the Transportation Department regarding the Turtle Creek trail conversion and barricades.
- CM Resendez did not provide an update.
- Chair McGough stated that organizations, such as the Assist the Officer Foundation, are not able to hold fundraisers, which poses a significant challenge. On April 29, he hosted a townhall meeting where a DPD

officer performed a live social-distance concert at an apartment complex to support the Assist the Officer Foundation.
Information only.

7. Identify Ad Hoc Committee's Strategic Next Steps

Presenter(s): Chair Adam McGough

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): The Ad Hoc Committee will meet on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 1:00 PM.

Adjourn (3:18 p.m.)

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

DMPT Adam McGough, Chair

Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion