

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: May 14, 2020

Convened: 1:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 3:34 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:

Tabitha Branum, Deputy Superintendent, Richardson ISD
Dr. Karyn Cummings, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Mesquite ISD
Dr. Matthew Vereecke, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Dallas
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
U. Renee Hall, Chief of Police, Dallas Police Department
T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff
Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Kevin Oden, Interim Director, Office of Homeless Solutions

Other Council Members Present:

CM Casey Thomas

AGENDA

Call to Order (1:00 p.m.)

1. Approval of the May 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Presenter(s): Chair Adam McGough

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): A motion was made to approve the minutes for the May 7, 2020 Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Human and Social Recovery and Assistance meeting.

Motion made by: CM Cara Mendelsohn
Item passed unanimously: X
Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by: CM Omar Narvaez
Item passed on a divided vote:
Item failed on a divided vote:

BRIEFING ITEMS**2. Latest from ISDs in the City of Dallas on Plans for Senior Graduation Ceremonies and School Re-Openings in Fall 2020**

Presenter(s): Tabitha Branum, Deputy Superintendent, Richardson ISD; Dr. Karyn Cummings, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Mesquite ISD; Dr. Matthew Vereecke, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Dallas

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

- Ms. Branum provided an update on Richardson ISD's (RISD) operations. Currently, RISD is in the process of standing up summer school from Pre-K to high school and developing summer learning opportunities for enrichment and remediation, including STEM summer camps. RISD is supporting over 1,000 more students this summer than they were able to last summer. RISD will be celebrating seniors from May 24th – May 30th and will host two hybrid (i.e. virtual and in person) graduation ceremonies for the class of 2020. RISD continues to determine options for reopening in the fall and are working with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Governor to make informed decisions.
- Dr. Cummings provided an update on Mesquite ISD's (MISD) operations. MISD has served 700,000 meals to students in the past nine weeks through non-contact delivery and drive through pick up. The meals will continue to be served over the summer. MISD conducted a survey to solicit feedback on virtual learning. Results indicated that administrators are most concerned about the integrity and authenticity of learning, teachers are most concerned about grades and student engagement, students are most concerned about connecting with friends and peers, and parents are most concerned about not having access to one-to-one technology or the internet and feeling unable to help their children learn. MISD has distributed one-to-one technology to each family. Graduation ceremonies will be held at Globe Life Field in accordance with TEA guidance and updated safety protocols. School reopening plans are yet to be determined.
- Dr. Vereecke provided an update on the Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Dallas, which includes over 40 schools and nearly 15,000 students. Currently, classes are being held virtually through synchronistic and asynchronistic methods. Dr. Vereecke will be looking to meet public schools in terms of reopening decisions. He is considering the needs of teachers, particularly elderly teachers, in his decision. Dr. Vereecke stated that if campuses do reopen in the fall, they need to be prepared to shut down campuses two weeks at a time to address any outbreaks.
- CM Mendelsohn discussed various ideas to celebrate high school seniors, including preparing City Council resolutions to recognize graduating seniors and putting congratulatory phrases on marquees at libraries and recreation centers. CM Gates suggested broadcasting graduation ceremonies on the City's TV channels on weekends. CM Narvaez asked the presenters questions about how they are addressing internet access issues and encouraging Census participation.

Information only.

3. 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 walked through the Institute for Urban Policy Research's County Data Dashboard, which can be accessed at <https://urbanpolicyresearch.org/covid19/county-data-dashboard/>. The dashboard visualizes case information, hospital capacity information, and testing information that is collected from several North Texas counties. CM Mendelsohn suggested that the dashboard should have information on which counties are included in the data, and hospital utilization rates and death rates prior to COVID to provide additional context. Committee members asked questions about what actions are being taken now that more accurate data is available, whether the goal is still to flatten the curve, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's cost-effectiveness model, and elective procedures at hospitals. CM Gates stated that she would like to see better patient demographic data and tracing efforts. She also plans to work with Dr. Kelvin Baggett, the City's recently appointed Health and Healthcare Access Czar on testing and data efforts. Information only.

4. 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; U. Renee Hall, Chief of Police, Dallas Police Department

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. Ms. Haning provided an update on involuntary compliance with the emergency orders and coordination with county, state, and federal enforcement agencies. CM Mendelsohn asked Assistant City Manager Fortune and Chief Hall if the Dallas County Sheriff is no longer accepting warrants for felony or misdemeanor narcotics. Chief Hall stated that the County is still accepting felonies and she will provide more information on this matter to the Ad Hoc Committee. Information only.

5. Specifics on the City of Dallas Furlough

Presenter(s): T.C. Broadnax, City Manager; Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff; Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Chief Tolbert provided an update on phase one of the City's workforce stabilization plan, which includes recently implemented furloughs. She discussed various cost reduction strategies, the steps taken to support furloughed employees – including the creation of an employee care team and an employee resource guide – and redeployment of non-essential employees to essential service areas. Committee members asked about how the furloughs are impacting the City's Census work, available COVID-19 relief funds, the Dallas tornadoes FEMA denial and appeal, how the furloughs are impacting community-facing services, including youth services and summer programs, and next steps for the workforce stabilization plan. Information only.

6. Focus Area Reports from Committee Members

Presenter(s): CM Jaime Resendez; Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion; Chair Adam McGough; CM Omar Narvaez; CM David Blewett; CM Jennifer Gates; CM Cara Mendelsohn; Kevin Oden, Interim Director, Office of Homeless Solutions; CM Carolyn King Arnold

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

- CM Resendez invited Chief Cedillo-Pereira to give an update on City staffs' work related to digital equity and internet access. Chief Cedillo-Pereira stated that in the short-term, an interdepartmental working group is developing a scope of work for citywide fiber optic and wireless broadband network, which includes an inventory asset assessment. In the mid-term, City departments are looking at federal funding opportunities and updating the City's resilience strategy to address long-term needs, including the digital divide. City staff are also participating in a weekly Chief Technology Officers' conference call with several school districts, Dallas County, and other stakeholders, which may result in an interlocal agreement in the long-term.
- Chair McGough did not provide an update.
- On behalf of CM Narvaez, Chair McGough stated that he will be hosting two tele-townhalls for seniors in partnership with AARP and the City's Senior Affairs division in the Office of Community Care.
- CM Blewett did not provide an update.
- CM Gates stated that she is continuing to work with Dr. Bray and will reach out to Dr. Kelvin Baggett, the City's Health and Healthcare Access Czar.
- CM Mendelsohn invited Director Oden to give an update on the Office of Homeless Solutions' (OHS) work, including the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center overnight shelter and the Dallas Love Field area hotel. Director Oden stated that over two hundred guests from the Convention Center were entered into the HMIS system and are on the high-priority housing list. Conversations related to increased testing and isolation are ongoing. He also stated that OHS is looking at resolutions to address the increasing number of encampment complaints.

- CM Arnold stated that the Dallas Police Department’s Community Affairs division continues to disseminate COVID-related resources and information to community members. For example, DPD South Central recently hosted a webinar on mental health resources.
Information only.

7. Identify Ad Hoc Committee’s Strategic Next Steps

Presenter(s): Chair Adam McGough

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Chair McGough requested that the Committee members let him know of any agenda items that they may want to see at future meetings. Information only.

Adjourn (3:34 p.m.)

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

DMPT Adam McGough, Chair

Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion

