

Workforce, Education and Equity Committee Meeting Record

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://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: June 8, 2020

Convened: 9:02 a.m.

Adjourned: 10:56 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:

Jordana Barton, Senior Community Development Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
Dottie Smith, President, Commit Partnership
Jack Kelanic, Chief Technology Officer, Dallas Independent School District
Drexell Owusu, Senior Vice President, Education and Workforce, Dallas Regional Chamber
Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer
Genesis Gavino, Resilience Officer, Office of Resilience
William Snead, Assistant Director, Information and Technology Services

Other Council Members Present:

DMPT Adam McGough
CM Jennifer S. Gates

AGENDA

Call to Order (9:02 a.m.)

A. Approval of the May 11, 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 May 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. Approval of the May 28, 2020 Special Called 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 May 28, 2020 Special Called 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:

C. Community Broadband Solutions in Response to COVID-19 and Beyond

Presenters: Jordana Barton, Senior Community Development Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; Dottie Smith, President, Commit Partnership; Jack Kelanic, Chief Technology Officer, Dallas Independent School District; Drexell Owusu, Senior Vice President, Education and Workforce, Dallas Regional Chamber; Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion; Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer; Genesis Gavino, Resilience Officer, Office of Resilience; William Snead, Assistant Director, Information and Technology Services

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Ms. Barton provided an overview of community broadband solutions in response to COVID-19 and beyond and covered the following points:

- Dallas ranks sixth among 75 U.S. Cities with 100,000+ households by “worst connection.” The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the extent to which the digital divide is a principle vulnerability that prevents the development of resilient communities.
- Government-owned fiber and wireless broadband networks may be used to bridge the digital divide in communities across the country and are vital assets for economic development.
- Cities can leverage public vertical assets and/or fiber to support educational institutions’ private wireless networks in low-income neighborhoods via interlocal agreements to develop a point-to-multipoint wireless network with the purpose of providing low-income students with home wireless internet connection to close the homework gap.
- Federal Reserve Bank guidance issued in March 2020 encourages banks to work constructively with borrowers and customers to meet the financial needs of those affected by COVID-19 through the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). This may include loans, investments or services that support digital access or access to health care for low- to moderate-income individuals or communities.
- Committee members discussed the need for comprehensive and current data on internet access in the City, how a lack of internet affects low- to moderate-income households and children, how internet access is no longer a luxury, but a necessity, and the role of internet service providers in bridging the digital divide. Ms. Barton stated that the City’s actionable steps to bridge the digital divide include developing a digital inclusion plan in the City’s COVID response and invest in infrastructure, fiber networks, and wireless technology. Chair Thomas directed Vice Chair Resendez and Chief Cedillo-Pereira to lead the City’s internet access efforts make Dallas an equitable and resilient city.

Ms. Smith, Mr. Kelanic, and Mr. Owusu presented on Internet for All, a coalition of over 40 leaders from school districts, cities, non-profits, and other stakeholders, whose vision is that all households in Dallas County have highspeed, reliable internet and access to devices in their homes. Highlights from the presentation include:

- The coalition created a Dallas County and state-wide connectivity analysis, identifying zip codes with the greatest connectivity need. The coalition is collaborating with the Dallas Regional Chamber and the four leading internet providers to help co-create solutions.
- The coalition’s short-term goals include developing a scope of work for consulting services to conduct feasibility study; mid-term goals include piloting bus and school community Wi-Fi projects in high-need neighborhoods, lobbying at the State and national level, engaging incumbent service providers to analyze infrastructure & adoption issues, and completing a feasibility study and issue Request for Information/Proposal; long-term goals include developing public-private partnerships and appropriate business models, identifying and recommending policy solutions, subscribing families to available services, building infrastructure as necessary and launching services in January 2021, if feasible - broadband connectivity for all Dallas students.
- Committee members asked questions about costing out internet deployment and consulting efforts and how efforts will be targeting and including non-students.

Chief Cedillo-Pereira, Chief Alequresh, Officer Gavino, and Assistant Director Snead presented on the City’s immediate internet equity initiatives.

- Immediate efforts to close the digital divide include leveraging existing WiFi at City facilities to extend into parking lots or 300 feet beyond central signal point; securing private sector infrastructure donations

- to support WiFi extension; coordinating with DISD to create a wireless mesh network; and participating in the Internet for All coalition with consultation from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.
- Other efforts include the Smart Cities pilot. In the next 3 – 6 months, a design and installment of up to three pilots will be executed through public-private partnerships.
 - CM Kleiman requested the valuation of the Cisco donation and Chair Thomas requested a one pager or memo to City Councilmembers on the Cisco donation and potential to expand to other library locations. Information only.

D. 2020 Census Update Briefing Memorandum

Presenters: Brett Wilkinson, Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs

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

E. Update on City of Dallas Ongoing Efforts to Address COVID-19 Health Access Disparities

Presenters: Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion

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

Adjourn (10:56 a.m.)

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

Casey Thomas, Chair
Workforce, Education & Equity Committee

Sommer Iqbal, Coordinator
Workforce, Education & Equity Committee