

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. 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: October 1, 2020

Convened: 1:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 3:39 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:

Chad West
Lee Kleinman

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER (1:30 p.m.)

1. Approval of the September 3, 2020 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 September 3, 2020 Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by: CM Jaime Resendez

Motion seconded by: CM Cara Mendelsohn

BRIEFING ITEMS WITHOUT ACTION

2. COVID-19 Testing and Data Update

Presenter(s): Dr. Kelvin Baggett, City of Dallas Health and Healthcare Access Czar; Dr. Phil Huang, Director, Dallas County Health and Human Services; Dr. Timothy Bray, The Institute for Urban Policy Research, University of Texas at Dallas; Dr. Mark Casanova, Dallas County Public Health Committee

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): The region's health experts gave updates on COVID-19 testing and data efforts in the City of Dallas and Dallas County. Ad Hoc Committee members asked questions about confidence in COVID-19 data, case fatality/mortality rates, gene sequences or other predictors that indicate the risk of contracting COVID-19, the percent of the population that is at high risk for COVID-19, recommended supplements to mitigate the severity of the disease, vulnerability as it relates to people with diabetes, and more. Information only.

3. Focus Area Updates

- a) Tennell Atkins: Economic and Development Funds/Policies
- b) Jennifer Gates: Public Health
- c) Jaime Resendez: Technology, Youth, and Schools
- d) Cara Mendelsohn: Homeless Populations
- e) Omar Narvaez: Senior Population
- f) David Blewett: Budget Implications and Tax Revenue

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

BRIEFING ITEMS WITH ACTION

4. Amendments to CARES Act CRF – Short Term Emergency Rental Assistance Program to Modify the Terms of Assistance

Presenter(s): David Noguera, Director, Department of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization; Thor Erickson, CARES Act Manager, Department of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Director David Noguera and Thor Erickson stated that the City's Short-Term Emergency Rental Assistance Program is budgeted to provide up to \$1,500 a month for up to two months in rental assistance. However, staff is seeing that actual rents are averaging less than \$1,000 per month. The staff recommendation is to provide greater services to applicants that have rental payments of less than \$1,000 per month by increasing to six months of assistance and up to \$3,000 in total assistance. There was discussion about how best to support the greatest number of residents beyond the December 30th Coronavirus Relief Funds expenditure deadline, if it's possible to go above the maximum recommended amount of \$3,000, and the program dashboard. A motion was made to move the staff recommendation to the City Council for consideration. The motion passed.

Motion made by: CM Cara Mendelsohn

Motion seconded by: CM Jennifer S. Gates

5. Parklet Program Funding Initiative

Presenter(s): Rosa Fleming, Director, Convention and Event Services

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Director Rosa Fleming discussed the status of the temporary parklet program, which converts available right of way parking, parking lots, and sidewalks into restaurant dining space to assist with small business recovery. Staff recommends the use of \$150,000 in CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds to standardize parklet design plans, administer construction grants, and provide road safety sign-off from a consultant engineer. Ad Hoc Committee members provided feedback and expressed the need to expand this program to all Council districts. A motion was made to move the staff recommendation to the City Council for consideration. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by: CM Cara Mendelsohn

Motion seconded by: CM David Blewett

BRIEFING MEMORANDA WITH ACTION

6. Nonprofit Assistance – Program Statement

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

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Director Jessica Galleshaw provided an overview of the Nonprofit Assistance Program, which will provide \$550,000 in CARES Act funds to support nonprofits that provide specific programming and services. Ad Hoc Committee members asked questions about the budget for the program, application criteria, if the budget for this item can be increased, and more. CM West requested that the application process ask for documentation of past expenses from the non-profit applicants. A motion was made to move the staff recommendation to the City Council for consideration. The motion passed.

Motion made by: CM Cara Mendelsohn

Motion seconded by: CM Tennell Atkins

7. CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds Recommended Allocation to Independent School Districts for Texas Education Agency Operation Connectivity Bulk Ordering

Presenter(s): Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Chief Liz Cedillo-Pereira provided an overview of a budget recommendation to allocate CARES Act funding to three school districts (Dallas ISD, Richardson ISD, and Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD) as matching funds for the Texas Education Agency Operation Connectivity Bulk Ordering Program. A motion was made to move the staff recommendation to the City Council for consideration. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by: CM Cara Mendelsohn

Motion seconded by: CM Jaime Resendez

BRIEFING MEMORANDA WITHOUT ACTION

8. Small Business Continuity Fund Update

Presenter(s): Robin Bentley, Interim Director, Office of Economic Development

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): CM Mendelsohn asked why twenty businesses withdrew from the program. Interim Director Robin Bentley responded that when businesses withdraw, it is typically because the HUD funding documentation process is too cumbersome. Information only.

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

Presenter(s): Carl Simpson, Director, Office of Code Compliance

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

ADJOURN (3:39 p.m.)

APPROVED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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