

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 15, 2020

Convened: 1:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 3:38 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:

AGENDA

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

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

Motion made by: CM Cara Mendelsohn

Motion seconded by: CM Omar Narvaez

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

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 hospitalization numbers, mortality rates, where public COVID-19 data is centralized, and more. Information only.

BRIEFING ITEMS WITH ACTION

3. Allocation of CARES Act HUD CDBG Grant Funds

Presenter(s): Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer, City Manager's Office

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): CFO Reich discussed the City Manager's proposed use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Plan allocation of third round of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds granted through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Ad Hoc Committee members asked questions about funding for nonprofits awarded contracts, Section 108 debt payments, how long the CDBG funds can be used for, and more. A motion was made to move the staff recommendation to the City Council for consideration. The motion passed.

Motion made by: CM Tennell Atkins

Motion seconded by: CM Jaime Resendez

4. Status of Request for Developer Interest and Streetlight Wi-Fi Pilot Projects

Presenter(s): Robert Perez, Ph.D., Director, Public Works Department; Ali Hatefi, P.E., Assistant Director, Public Works Department; Jacob McCarroll, Sr. Project Coordinator, Public Works Department; Don Knight, Sr. Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Dr. Perez provided a status update on the Public Works Department's efforts to bridge the digital divide through a Request for Developer Interest for a fiber option/wireless broadband network pilot project and a streetlight and Wi-Fi pilot project. Ad Hoc Committee members asked questions about whether an equity lens was used when considering the project proposals and locations for the pilot projects, the timeframe of the projects, how these efforts are related to the City's long-term goals to bridge the digital divide, if other cities are doing similar work, and when these projects can be announced to residents. CM Narvaez requested a heatmap that displays the impact of the projects on areas that have concentrated lack of internet access. This item was approved by the City Council at the October 13, 2020 City Council meeting, so an action by the Ad Hoc Committee was not required. Information only.

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM WITH ACTION

5. CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund Upcoming Agenda Items: Digital Navigators Program, Eviction Assistance Program, and Purchase of UbiDuo Deaf-Hearing Communication Devices

Presenter(s): Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion, City Manager's Office

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Chief Cedillo-Pereira provided an overview of the Office of Equity and Inclusion's two agenda items funded by CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) for the City Council's consideration on October 28, 2020: The Digital Navigators Program and the purchase of UbiDuo deaf-hearing communication devices. Chief Cedillo-Pereira also stated that the Office of Equity and Inclusion will enact a CRF-funded Eviction Assistance Initiative through an Administrative Action. Ad Hoc Committee members asked questions about how the UbiDuo devices will be distributed, what information can be gleaned from eviction data, and more. A motion was made to move the staff recommendation to the City Council for consideration. The motion passed.

Motion made by: CM Tennell Atkins

Motion seconded by: CM Jennifer S. Gates

BRIEFING MEMORANDA WITHOUT ACTION

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

Presenter(s): Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion, City Manager's Office

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Chief Cedillo-Pereira provided an update on various departments' efforts to address COVID-19 health access disparities. The Ad Hoc Committee members discussed race and ethnicity data as it relates to COVID-19. Information only.

7. 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 (3:38 p.m.)

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

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

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