

# 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](http://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:** September 16, 2021

**Convened:** 1:01 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 3:22 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Casey Thomas, Chair  
Tennell Atkins  
Jesse Moreno  
Paul Ridley

**Committee Members Absent:**

Cara Mendelsohn

**Other Council Members Present:**

## **AGENDA**

### **CALL TO ORDER (1:01 p.m.)**

**1. Approval of the August 12, 2021 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 August 12, 2021 Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance meeting. The motion passed.

Motion made by: CM Paul Ridley

Motion seconded by: CM Tennell Atkins

### **BRIEFING ITEMS WITHOUT ACTION**

**A. COVID-19 Vaccine, Testing, and Data Update**

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Phil Huang, Director, Dallas County Health and Human Services; Dr. Timothy Bray, Director, Institute for Urban Policy Research, University of Texas at Dallas; Rocky Vaz, Director, Office of Emergency Management

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** The region's health experts gave updates on COVID-19 vaccine, testing, and data efforts in the City of Dallas and Dallas County. Ad Hoc Committee members discussed and asked questions about several topics, including: demographic data related to vaccine hesitancy, the impact of independent school districts' compliance with emergency mandates on the rate of positivity, utilizing trusted messengers among communities of color to overcome vaccine hesitancy, suggestions on utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds to mitigate vaccine hesitancy, the City of Dallas's COVID-19 pop-up clinics, results of COVID-19 outreach to neighborhoods, messaging regarding the COVID-19 vaccine booster, recommendations for vaccination sites, data on the first and second dose vaccine trends, and more. Information only.

**B. DFW COVID-19 Community Prevalence Study Update**

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Amit Singal, Medical Director of the Liver Tumor Program and Clinical Chief of Hepatology, Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center; Dr. Jasmin Tiro, Associate Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Dr. Amit Singal and Dr. Jasmin Tiro provided an overview of the DFW COVID-19 Prevalence Study, which seeks to measure prevalence of COVID-19 in DFW and by sociodemographic subgroup, understand development and duration of immunity to COVID-19, and monitor for emerging hotspots, and engage the community as a trusted, transparent source of information about the COVID-19 pandemic. There was no discussion on this item. Information only.

**C. American Rescue Plan Act Communications and Outreach Plan**

**Presenter(s):** Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office; Catherine Cuellar, Director, Communications, Outreach, & Marketing; Janella Newsome, Assistant Director, Communications, Outreach, & Marketing

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Chief Tolbert and Director Cuellar provided an overview of the City of Dallas's ARPA Communications and Outreach Strategy for FY 2021-2022, including key messaging, time frame, and programming. Ad Hoc Committee members discussed and asked questions about several topics, including: administration of the COVID-19 vaccine booster, messaging around how to replace lost vaccination records, how the City is keeping its employees safe beyond vaccinations, the process for acquiring personal protective equipment for National Night Out, media exposure to markets other than the 17 zip codes specified in the communications and outreach strategy, and if the Communications, Outreach, & Marketing department has sufficient funds to administer the strategy in the coming fiscal year. Information only.

**D. COVID-19 Support and Employee Vaccination Incentive Update**

**Presenter(s):** Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office; Nina Arias, Director, Human Resources

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Chief Tolbert and Director Arias provided an update on the City of Dallas COVID-19 Support and Employee Vaccination Incentive. Ad Hoc Committee members discussed and asked questions about several topics, including: if the mandatory COVID testing for Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) is self-administered, the process on how to respond when a DFR employee tests positive for COVID-19, changes in the personnel rules, how departments will accommodate additional sick leave time for employees who test positive, if the City is considering mandating vaccines for DFR, and more. Information only.

**E. Rental Assistance Program Updates**

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

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Director Galleshaw provided an update on the City of Dallas rental assistance program. Ad Hoc Committee members discussed and asked questions about several topics, including: how organizations can get involved in administering the program, rental assistance navigators, legal assistance for residents facing evictions, and the logistics of the rental payment process. Information only.

**ADJOURN (3:22 p.m.)**

**APPROVED BY:**

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

**ATTESTED BY:**

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