

**SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION (SAC) MONTHLY MEETING**

**REMOTE WEBEX MEETING**

**DIAL IN: 1-469-210-7159 United States Toll (Dallas)**

**DIAL IN: 1-408-418-9388 United States Toll**

**MEETING NUMBER (ACCESS CODE):** **146 105 0998**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 **Convened:** 12:02 p.m. **Adjourned**: 1:33 p.m.

**Committee Members Present**: **Committee Members Absent**: **City of Dallas Staff Present:**

Jan Hart Black, Chair Beverly White (Dist. 9) Ana Camacho, Manager Carmen Arana (Dist. 1) Thor Erickson, Manager Portia M. Cantrell (Dist. 2) **Guests** Jessica Galleshaw, Director

Verna Mitchell (Dist. 3) Katrina Wall-Briggs Myckycle Hart, Caseworker

VACANT (Dist. 4) Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker Ja’net Huling (Dist. 5) Calvin Johnson, Lieutenant of Police

Marilyn Daniels (Dist. 6) Barbara Martinez, City Attorney

Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7) James Ramirez, Caseworker Debbie Austin (Dist. 8) Lupe Rios, Administrator Jeri Baker (Dist. 10) Danny Williams, Major of Police Bill Gart (District 11)

Zelene Lovitt (Dist. 12)

J. Peter Kline (Dist. 13) Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

**Call to Order**

Jan Hart Black, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) monthly meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., welcomed new Commissioner Portia Cantrell, District 2, and conducted roll call to establish a quorum.

**No Public Comments**

**Approval of November 16, 2020 Minutes**

Sarah Wick made a motion to approve the November 2020 minutes. Peter Kline seconded the motion. The Commissioners

voted in favor of the motion.

**Dallas Police Department**

Lieutenant Calvin Johnson, Assault/Sex Assault Unit, Dallas Police Department (DPD), presented elder abuse data:

* As of November 31, 2020, 134 total offenses against the elderly over 65 years of age have occurred in the City of Dallas, an increase of 13% compared to 119 offenses for the entire year of 2019.
* Domestic violence has increased since the pandemic as well as assault of individuals 65 years of age and older.

DPD works closely with Adult Protective Services (APS) who investigate reports of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Lt. Johnson will provide additional statistics on financial abuse, crime and the elderly to the Commission.

**Adult Protective Services**

Katrina Wall-Briggs, Faith Based and Community Engagement Specialist, Adult Protective Services (APS), presented an overview of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and its two divisions: Adult and Child Protective Services (CPS). The mission of DFPS is to protect the unprotected, the most vulnerable citizens in the State of Texas, adults with disabilities (18-64), older adults (65+), and children under 18 years of age from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation by investigating, providing or arranging for services necessary to alleviate or prevent further maltreatment.

Texas is a mandatory reporting state: Any adult who suspects that a vulnerable adult is in a state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall report the information to APS immediately. APS clients have the right to refuse APS services if they have mental capacity and cannot refuse services if they do not have capacity. APS works closely with law enforcement who receive every validated report of abuse and neglect. APS has received 1466 COVID-related cases since the pandemic began.

**Senior Affairs Commission Draft Annual Report Discussion**

Commissioner Black received comments from Debbie Austin, Cannon Flowers, and Verna Mitchell regarding the Annual Report.

Ms. Black will amend and update the report prior to the SAC meeting in January 2021 when the Commissioners will vote to

approve the final version.

**City of Dallas Programs Updates**

Ana Camacho, Senior Services Program Manager, provided an update on the Office of Community Care (OCC), Senior Services programs. In November, senior services staff participated in the first virtual Eating Well is a SNAP presentation, a Spanish virtual outreach with AARP, and volunteered at the West Dallas Multipurpose Center Turkey Drive. Senior Services is currently working on a Spanish version of the Elder Abuse Prevention Resource Placemat. The winter edition of the Senior Affairs Dallas newsletter is near completion. COVID-19 has impacted seniors in all OCC programs. Due to the pandemic, Dallas Park and Recreation have been delivering meals to seniors who participate in the Active Senior Adult Program (ASAP).

Jessica Galleshaw, Manager, Office of Community Care, responded to questions from Cannon Flowers regarding OCC contract services and the cost impact of these services. The contracts administered are billed on a fee for service basis; therefore, the programs incur cost savings because less clients are using the services. COVID has largely impacted client participation and utilization of all of the OCC programs. The senior services staff is doing less outreach and more direct service delivery.

Thor Erickson, Manager III, Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization, provided an update on the City of Dallas home repair

programs. Forty-seven Home Improvement and Preservation Program (HIPP) applications submitted in October 2019 have

been approved. Construction on all 47 homes will begin over the next couple of weeks. In October 2020, the housing

department received 543 HIPP applications. The first 40 homes have been inspected. At the SAC meeting in January 2021,

Mr. Erickson will provide demographic and geographic data on the HIPP applications with a particular focus on applicants

over age 65, the percentage of funding approved for seniors, and the percentage of seniors divided into all applicants to

understand the impact on the senior population. On December 11, 2020, the housing department launched the targeted

home repair program in West Dallas and the Tenth Street Historic District. Citizens approved for the reconstruction program

are responsible for finding their own accommodations for the four to six months that their homes are being reconstructed.

**Senior Affairs Commissioners District Updates Senior Affairs Commissioners for each District, as needed**

Debbie Austin announced the grand opening of a new recreation center on December 4, 2020. Other activities in District 8 included a drive-through community event called Holiday in the Hills. Food was served to 400 families. Commissioner Austin and Councilmember Atkins are working in partnership with Judge Thomas Jones on a housing assistance program for seniors which will provide funds up to $1,000 to help people stay in their homes during the COVID crisis. Commissioner Austin wrote a story about a 96-year-old Veteran and nominated him to be recognized on Veterans Day. His story was selected and read on WRR City of Dallas radio station.

Bill Gart reported that his Home Owners Association (HOA) in District 11 was unable to have a food and clothing drive this year due to the pandemic. His HOA collaborated with another HOA to raise $2,300 in donations awarded to Vickery Meadows to enable them to buy food for their food bank. Vickery Meadows has been serving four times many more people since the pandemic. Commissioner Gart is planning to spearhead a food program in February 2021. Each district will have the opportunity to raise money for the Vickery Meadows food bank or other beneficiary.

Commissioner Black reported that the recreation center staff in District 15 (city-wide) plan to call seniors who historically participated in the senior programs to check on them during the holidays. She encouraged the Commission to take advantage of Methodist Generations, programs for older adults including free online activities provided by Methodist Hospital System.

Verna Mitchell reported that seniors in District 3 receive information from their District Office, churches, community service and professional organizations in the area. Seniors in District 3 participated in a virtual educational session regarding disaster relief and received a packet of information as well as an envelope to store important information. Activities included drive-through food distribution and home-delivered food. Seniors in her district also received complimentary tickets to the Dallas Arboretum.

**Upcoming Events**

* January 25, 2021: Senior Affairs Committee Meeting

**Adjournment**

The SAC meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



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Jan Hart Black, Chair

Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)