

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

**REMOTE WEBEX MEETING**

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**MEETING NUMBER (ACCESS CODE): 146 636 7663**

**MEETING LINK:**

**https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/j.php?MTID=m3fba0c1dc421759283e1f7f227627cfe**

**MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021 **Convened:** 12:00 p.m. **Adjourned**: 1:44 pm

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

 Jan Hart Black, Chair Zelene Lovitt (Dist. 12) Ana Camacho, Manager

 Carmen Arana (Dist. 1) Thor Erickson, Manager

 Portia M. Cantrell (Dist. 2) **Guests** Jessica Galleshaw, Director

 Verna Mitchell (Dist. 3) Syl Benenson Myckycle Hart, Caseworker

 Ola Allen (Dist. 4) Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker

 Ja’net Huling (Dist. 5) Maria Manzanares, Specialist

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

 VACANT (Dist. 7) James Ramirez, Caseworker

 Debbie Austin (Dist. 8) Lupe Rios, Administrator

 Beverly White (Dist. 9) Gloria Sandoval, Manager Jeri Baker (Dist. 10)

 Bill Gart (Dist.11)

 J. Peter Kline (Dist. 13)

 Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

 **Call to Order**

Jan Hart Black, Chair, Senior Affairs Commission (SAC), called the monthly meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and

conducted roll call to establish a quorum.

**Public Comments**

Former SAC Commissioner Syl Benenson stated that the Senior Source will continue to support the Senior Affairs Commission and speak in support of SAC recommendations at the hearings. She requested a copy of the SAC recommendations and recommended budget.

**Approval of May 24, 2021 Minutes**

Beverly White made a motion to approve the May 2021 minutes. Verna Mitchell seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**City of Dallas Homeless Solutions**

 Gloria Sandoval, Manager, Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS), presented an overview of the OHS on behalf of her

 Director, Christine Crossley. She provided a brief history of the department, 2021 Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Count

 Results, initiatives and successes, and current programs and services for seniors who are homeless. Approximately 65

 to 70% of our homeless neighbors are over the age of 55. Seniors make up the largest group of the homeless population.

* On October 1, 2017, City of Dallas homeless programs and services were consolidated into one department.
* The Office of Homeless Solutions was created and guided by the Citizen Homelessness Commission.
* On November 7, 2017, voters approved a $20 million bond package for homeless assistance facilities.
* On August 1, 2018, Dallas City Council approved the OHS Four Track Strategy.
* Mission of OHS is to positively impact the quality of life of citizens in the City of Dallas through innovative, collaborative, and comprehensive solutions for homelessness.
* Key OHS Priorities: To **prevent** homelessness, to **protect** persons experiencing homelessness, and to **promote** affordable housing solutions.

 **Programs and Services for Seniors**

* Welcome Center at The Bridge Homeless Assistance Center with 50 pay-to-stay beds
* Diversion program designed to prevent people from becoming homeless
* Inclement Weather Shelter Program
* Landlord Subsidized Leasing Program
* Senior Housing Grant
* Ending Homeless Veterans Challenge
* Dallas Connector Project Ridership
* St. Jude Center for Seniors

 **City of Dallas Program Updates**

Thor Erickson, Area Redevelopment Manager, Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Department, presented an update and demographic data on the housing preservation programs.

* Housing Department receives $2.9 million per year for home repairs to serve about 40 or 50 applicants.
* Average age of persons served is in their 60’s across all programs.
* Housing Policy Task Force met a couple of weeks ago.
* Proposed changes to housing policy: To increase cap limit from $50,000 to $62,000 per house
* Minor Home Repair Program Recommendation: To remove match requirement of nonprofits and lower the dollar amount from $10,000 to $5,000 per house for routine maintenance and general emergency needs
* On August 23, 2021, Homelessness Committee will vote on proposed changes.
* If Homelessness Committee votes yes, Mr. Erickson will move forward on seeking final approval.
* On September 9, 2021, proposed changes will be presented the Dallas City Council for a vote.

**Office of Community Care/Senior Services**

Ana Y. Camacho, Manager, Senior Services Program Manager, provided an update on the Senior Services Program and Contract Partners and a written report with year-to-date comparative data.

* Over 900 seniors participated in the DART Older Americans Month Drive-Through Event in May.
* Staff participated in the SNAP into Older American Action Month Virtual Event on May 20, 2021 and four outreach events in June.
* Senior Services is currently in the planning/organizing phase of two more virtual outreach events.
* Senior Services received 86 unduplicated calls for information and referrals in May.
* Majority of calls were for financial assistance, home repair, and housing.
* Total of 831 unduplicated clients through end of May 2021
* DART Rides Rider Assistance Program: Nine new clients out of 129 registered users with a total of 178 trips
* Texas A&M Clinical Dental Program: 105 unduplicated seniors served in May 2021 with 110 patient visits
* The Senior Source Ombudsman Program: 31 assisted living and nursing home visits; 195 residents visited
* 71% of complaints resolved by Ombudsman within 90 days

 **Adoption of Funding Priorities Subcommittee Report**

Peter Klein, SAC Commissioner, District 13, reported on the Funding Priorities Subcommittee. Committee members decided not to make any new recommendations this year, nor did they recommend any cuts in funding for any of the programs. The subcommittee recommended that the funding priorities remain the same. Over the next 12 months, Commissioner Kline believes that it is imperative to assess any community needs caused by COVID-19. The Commissioners discussed funding for COVID-19 vaccinations and concluded that the report covered that concern.

Commissioner Black called for a vote to adopt the report, seconded by Ms. White. The SAC voted in favor of adopting the report. The SAC voted on approval of funding priorities and adopted SAC Recommendations on Funding Priorities for 2021-2022.

 **Senior Affairs Subcommittee Updates**

Commissioner Mitchell reported that the Safety, Health, Community Support Subcommittee met on Friday, June 25, 2021. Chief of Police Eddie Garcia presented a general overview of the city priorities and his plan to combat street racing in neighborhoods and violence against seniors.

Ja’net Huling reported that the Transportation, Outdoor Spaces Subcommittee met and reorganized their thought processes. One committee recommendation was for Ms. Huling to learn what providers are providing so she can come back to the SAC in August with a solid plan. She plans to attend the next AARP transportation meeting.

 **Senior Affairs Commissioners District Updates**

 Jeri Baker expressed appreciation to Myckycle Hart for an excellent presentation on describing the activities of the

 SAC and the OCC. He covered all the bases in a most professional way.

 Commissioner Mitchell reported that she attended the monthly district breakfast on Saturday. The Director of Public Works

 encouraged everyone to submit any recommendations they have on streets and alleys to be included in the budget.

 Debbie Austin reported on her district activities: The Dallas Symphony performed in her community on June 15, 2021.

 She attended her neighborhood coalition meeting, fraud summit, round table for Dallas Hunger Solutions. Ms. Austin has

 also been busy locating homeless encampments in her neighborhood at the request of Council Member Tennell Atkins.

**Upcoming Events**

* August 23, 2021: Senior Affairs Committee Meeting at location to be determined

 **Adjournment**

 Commissioner Kline made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:44 p.m. Commissioner White seconded the motion.

 APPROVED BY:

 

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 Jan Hart Black, Chair

 Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)