



Good morning,

At City Hall, August means the beginning of budget season. From August 13th to August 28th, council offices host budget town hall meetings to share the budget as proposed by the City Manager with the public, take feedback, and begin the process of crafting amendments. This budget season will be particularly challenging as we are facing shortfalls from the economic crisis due to COVID-19 and calls to take a hard look at how we are policing fairly in our City. While I know this will be challenging, it is an excellent opportunity for both the City and our residents to take a hard look at our priorities and spend your tax dollars in a way that best serves our community.

My office has received countless emails and calls regarding DPD's budget. I want to be clear, **I do not support defunding the police**, reducing the numbers of officers, or reducing their pay. The City Council has worked very hard over the past few years to ensure that all officers from new hires to veterans are paid market or above market value. We also cannot ignore the fact that violent crime has not decreased after a decade's long high last year, and the police are integral in responding to and protecting our residents. I do believe there are ways we could improve police response time, training, and answering calls for people who are experiencing homelessness or having a mental health crisis. Many of these recommendations, which the City is already pursuing, can be found in the [KPMG study](#) released to the public last summer. The police department will certainly need to be part of the solution to addressing the deep inequities in our City. However, the problems do not start and end with the police. Our housing, homeless, uninsured and hunger crises are going to take concerted efforts on behalf of the City, non-profit and faith communities, public companies, and every single resident.

The City Manager, T.C. Broadnax, released his proposed budget last Friday. It is available [here](#). This budget proposal does not defund police and, in fact, shows a slight increase to DPD's budget.

It is worth noting that I am just one of 15 voices, and the budget is voted on by full council. If you feel strongly about funding for public safety or how your tax dollars are used by the City, I encourage you to reach out to all council offices and the mayor, attend the budget town halls, and sign up to speak at City Council meetings and briefings where the budget will be discussed.

If you need anything, please continue to reach out to my Council Liaison, Sarah Evans, at sarah.evans@dallascityhall.com or by phone at 214-670-3816 or my Council Assistant, Alexandra Heller-Relayze at alexandra.relayze@dallascityhall.com or by phone at 214-670-7057.

District 13 Budget Town Halls

I look forward to hosting three virtual town halls in August. Please see the dates and more information on how to access each meeting below.

Option 1: Tuesday, August 18th at 6pm

- To participate, go to <https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall> or call 408-418-9388
- Enter the 9-digit event code number: 146 014 8074
- Enter the password: 8m85kFiypJY
- Closed captions are not available
- Please note that if you choose to call in, you will not be able to ask questions
- For step-by-step instructions to access WebEx online and participate in the Q&A, click [here](#)

Option 2: Thursday, August 20th at 6pm - This meeting is also available in Spanish

- To register, go to <http://tthm.us/dallasbudget>
- All registered participants will receive a telephone call prior to the start of the meeting from 214-671-8005.
- If preferred, call the Toll-Free Line, 888-400-1932
- For Spanish, please call Toll-Free 888-400-9342

Option 3: Tuesday, August 25th at 6pm

- To participate, go to <https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall> or call 408-418-9388
- Enter the 9-digit event code number: 146 454 6480
- Enter the password: V6Wpe5W5EQ7
- Closed captions are not available
- Please note that if you choose to call in, you will not be able to ask questions
- For step-by-step instructions to access WebEx online and participate in the Q&A, click [here](#)

City Council Budget Meetings

To tune into these meetings, visit DallasCityHall.com and select the link "Watch City Meetings Online." If you would like to sign up to speak at any of these meetings please sign up online [here](#). Please note that to speak you must register no later than 5 p.m. the day before the meeting. The first budget briefing was today. You can find the presentation here - [City Council Budget Workshop](#).

- City Council Budget Workshop - August 19th, 2020 at 9 a.m.
- City Council Budget Briefing, Budget Amendments - Sept. 2nd at 9 a.m.
- City Council Agenda Meeting, Budget Vote - Sept. 23rd at 9 a.m.

Census Update

The census will end on September 30th, 2020. It is imperative that every resident completes this by the deadline. As of today, approximately 27,000 households in district 13 have responded to the 2020 Census. This means there are about 17,000 households which have not responded.

Every single person counts. This determines our representation in the House of Representatives and is used to allocate federal funding for programs like Medicaid, Head Start and SNAP benefits. One third of children in Dallas County are food insecure and programs like SNAP give them access to much needed food. Additionally, Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the country, including uninsured children. Programs like Medicaid give low income families access to quality healthcare and decrease the burden of unpaid medical expenses on hospitals and medical providers. [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE CENSUS](#).

Alley Trash & Recycling Collection

We have received several calls and emails from residents concerned that all trash and recycling pick up is being moved to the front curb city-wide. That is not the case. The Sanitation department did brief the Environment and Sustainability Committee on the benefits of moving 95% of garbage picks ups to automated truck collection. Many alleys are in a condition and at a width that will easily accommodate the automated trucks. We are unclear how many alleys could not accommodate the automatic trucks. This is a proposal, not a decision. Councilmembers asked the Sanitation staff to reach out to residents for feedback. The full presentation can be found [here](#). Again, these are preliminary discussions and no decision has been made at this time.

As a reminder, the City did implement new policies regarding Bulk and Brush Trash Collection effective July 1st, 2020. This limited the set out to 10 cubic yards per month. Residents are able to request an oversize collection of 20 cubic yards twice annually by calling 3-1-1. We have also received some push back on this change to policy. This policy was implemented primarily for three reasons. 1) This allows sanitation to stay on schedule because they will not have to pick up excessive debris loads. 2) It prevents illegal dumping that was occurring in parts of the City where residents were accepting payment for people from other cities to dump debris in their yard which Sanitation would pick up for free. 3) This keeps our operation cost down which in turn slows the increase of Sanitation fees.

District 13 Zoning Cases

Temporary Fire Station 41 ([Z190-261](#)) was approved by the City Plan Commission on Thursday, August 6th. This has been scheduled to appear before full Council on September 23rd, although it may be moved up to the September 9th meeting.

The zoning case at the corner of Westchester and Luther Lane ([Z190-238](#)) for the redevelopment of two parcels, currently a three story medical building and a mixed-use building including Hopdoddy, was deferred for two weeks and will come back to City Plan Commission on Thursday, August 20th.

COVID Data & Resources

I continue to serve on the COVID Ad Hoc Committee for the City Council. While I am encouraged to see that the daily case counts have been trending downward in the last few weeks, the numbers are still not as low as we would like to see them to indicate that community spread has slowed. While the number of patients in critical care in the hospital have also decreased, we are not yet a place where we could handle another surge. We still do not understand the impact that opening schools will have and will continue to monitor the situation closely. The best indication we could have that the virus is beginning to be contained is that less than 5% of people test positive. We are currently at 14%.

Dr. Tim Bray in conjunction with his colleagues at UT Dallas released very helpful COVID-19 data dashboards. You can reach the homepage at <https://urbanpolicyresearch.org/covid19>, or the county dashboard directly at <https://urbanpolicyresearch.org/covid19/county-data-dashboard>. This includes hospital capacity, number tested positive, increases by last 7 days, among other helpful information. This is one of the best resources available and may answer many questions you have.

For testing and other information (Spanish and English) visit [Dallascityhall.com/COVID19](https://dallascityhall.com/COVID19) and 214.670.INFO

For residents without transportation or means to access the drive-through testing sitiescityofdallasmobiletesting.com

The City of Dallas offers a community resource hub with support services available to those impacted by COVID-19 . <https://communityresources.dallascityhall.com/WCIA>

DISD Virtual Parent Conferences

Dallas ISD parents, to help you with a "Smart Restart" for the 2020-2021 school year, Dallas ISD is offering a live virtual conference from 3 to 6 p.m. each day August 11 through 13 and August 18 through 20. Topic for the conferences include Dallas ISD's school reentry plan, safety protocols, online learning technology tools, Parent Portal and more. To look at what is offered each day and time and to register to attend, visit www.dallasisd.org/smartrestartparents

Marsh & Walnut Hill Shopping Center Update

We received the following update from Hopkins Commercial -

"The demolition permits were filed with the City of Dallas on Wednesday 8/6/2020. The Landlord has hired Dallas based firm, The Demo Company, to handle demolition of the entire premises. Hopkins Commercial has received a ton of interest in the site from major grocery retailers, boutique fitness groups, mom and pop restaurants, national restaurant franchises, coffee shops, and more. We are even exploring options to develop a mixed-use facility at the site. We aim to provide a vibrant neighborhood retail space for the residents of the area. Regarding the Gas Station at the North East corner of Marsh/Walnut Hill: The Landlord worked out a deal with the Tenant to take full control of the hard corner. That agreement was finalized by the Tenant last week, which is wonderful news.

If you have further questions or concerns, or would like to share your input with the Hopkins team personally, please call or email Christopher Bass at 214-597-1707 or CB@hopkinscommercial.com. We look forward to working with the neighborhood, and delivering a vibrant space for families and individuals of all ages."

Dallas County Food Pantry Assistance Program

The Dallas County Commissioners Court is pleased to announce the opening of our Food Pantry Assistance Program, which will begin accepting applications on Monday, August 10, 2020.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be in operation on or before March 1, 2019;
- Be current in the payment of all Dallas County and local taxes;
- Must be physically located in Dallas County (excluding the City of Dallas) with a physical Dallas County mailing address;
- Demonstrate increased food assistance or cost since March 1, 2020 due to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

To apply for this program, please visit <http://www.dallascounty.org/cares-act/food-pantry-en.php>

DART Survey on New Bus Routes

DART is working to redesign our bus routes and wants your feedback! Please take a moment to fill out their survey and share your thoughts.

DARTzoom Survey (English): <https://dartzoom.org/en/survey>

DARTzoom Survey (Spanish): <https://dartzoom.dart.org/es/encuesta>

Dallas Forward - Free PPE for Small & Medium Businesses

An initiative to advance short-term economic recovery and drive long-term inclusive

growth in Dallas, created at the request of Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, and co-chaired by co-chaired by Richard Fisher, former President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and Fred Perpall, CEO of The Beck Group and Chairman of the Dallas Citizens Council - now has free PPE (gloves, hand sanitizer, and face masks) available for our local small-and-medium sized businesses (SMBs). To access this free PPE, please visit: [Click Here to Request Free PPE Supplies for Your Business](#).

SMART Summer Ambassador

Just one week left of SMART Summer. It's not too late to log your reading and activities. One participant at each library location will win a back-to-school backpack and a family game night package including gift cards from Raising Canes Chicken.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE
TO LOG YOUR
SUMMER READING!**

YOU COULD WIN A BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK OR A FAMILY GAME NIGHT PACKAGE!

dallaspubliclibrary

NCTCOG Input on Transportation Planning

Input from residents, local governments and private sector impacts decisions about transportation and air quality policies, programs and plans for North Texas. After all, these decisions determine how North Texans live and travel in the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Input received is provided to the Regional Transportation Council. Comments or questions may be submitted on the specific items listed or other transportation and air quality topics. Share you input [here](#).

Stay safe and take care,

Jennifer



Jennifer S. Gates

Councilmember District 13

City of Dallas | www.dallascityhall.com

1500 Marilla St 5FS

Dallas, TX 75201

O: (214) 670-3816