

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE June 26, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

SUBJECT **COVID-19 Enforcement Update**

At the request of Chairman Thomas of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance, the following memo is intended to provide the City Council an update on current COVID-19 related enforcement.

The City's efforts to enforce current COVID-19 Emergency Orders continues. Since March 13, 2020 there have been over 7,650 related calls to 311 and Code Compliance has completed over 19,800 inspections. Only 36 citations have been issued for non-compliance. The vast majority of the issues addressed, have been related to non-posting of the current emergency regulations.

Recently, Governor Abbott announced updated state regulations allowing local jurisdictions to implement standards related to wearing masks. Subsequently, Dallas County issued an order requiring businesses to implement a masking policy. Violations related to this order are either (1) a failure to create a policy or (2) a failure to implement the policy. Dallas County Health and Human Service Department is the lead enforcement agency to enforce the business masking policy. Businesses, not the individual, can be fined for violation of the County order, though the County's order provides certain exceptions.

In response to sharp increases in positive COVID-19 cases in Texas, this morning Governor Abbott announced additional regulations to require bars to close, further limiting restaurant indoor occupancy to 50%, and providing restrictions on outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people. Staff is currently evaluating these new regulations to ensure that we establish the appropriate enforcement response.

Code Compliance will continue enforcement and proactive education of current orders and regulations, and 311 will continue to serve as the central point of contact for residents related to reporting suspected violations, and for questions or concerns. Staff will continue to adjust strategies as regulations change or new issues arise.

Please contact me should you have any additional questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Fortune".

Jon Fortune,
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors