

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE June 19, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Taking Care of Business – June 18, 2020**

New Updates

Reopening: Phase Two and Phase Three

Due to the number of positive cases continuing to increase since the Return to Work Briefing to the City Council on June 3rd, 2020 and following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Dallas County. We are delaying the reopening dates of Phases Two and Three.

We will keep reviewing the COVID-19 data to confirm if we will be moving forward with Phase Two of the reopening that was originally scheduled for June 22, 2020 and is now tentatively scheduled for July 6, 2020. Phase Three is now tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2020.

THANKS-GIVING FOUNDATION AND THE CITY OF DALLAS: BUILDING A BETTER CITY

The Thanks-Giving Foundation has engaged the City of Dallas to assist with the ongoing work to address ending racial injustice and promoting equality. They have created a banner that is currently hanging on the ground floor lobby of City Hall and are inviting Mayor Johnson, members of the City Council, City staff and anyone who enters city hall to sign it with ideas that the City or the individual can do to end racial injustice and promote equality. The comments can be anonymous. As the re-opening of City Hall is staggered throughout the summer, the banner will continue to allow all those who want to participate to do so. Once the banner is filled, it will be presented to the Thanks-Giving Foundation and displayed at Thanks-Giving Square. For questions or concerns, please contact Brett Wilkinson, Director of The Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs.

Shopping for Groceries” Survey

The Office of Innovation is in the last week of its food survey, designed to gather direct feedback from households about their changing food needs during the pandemic. Due to strong support from City Council and our external partners, we have responses from almost every zip code. However, we want to have a strong close and encourage you to continue sharing the link to the survey ([here](#)) with your constituents. We look forward to sharing the responses with you to help inform stronger citywide food policies and options. If you have additional questions, please contact Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer.

Dallas Youth Make a Difference Campaign

Launch Tuesday or Wednesday (After the YC meeting on Monday)

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The launch will include:

- Story and/or press release that will include
 - o Call to Act Video
 - o Youth Events
 - Chalk event with Innovation
 - Possible event with DRC YP
 - Premade letters for youth that they can send their elected officials. (written by YC)
 - Possible Dallas youth town hall

- Social Media launch
 - o Call to Act Video to be shared on all social media platforms
 - o Social media graphics to help promote the campaign/activities.

This will be shared with external stakeholders to help amplify the message. For more information please contact Brett Wilkinson, Managing Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs Brett.Wilkinson@dallascityhall.com.

Look Ahead

[City Council Briefings](#)

June 24, 2020

- City Council Voting Agenda

August 5, 2020

- Dallas Housing Authority Annual Update
- Small Cell Program Updates

[Media Inquiries](#)

As of June 15, 2020, the City has received media requests from various news outlets regarding the following topics:

- RIGHT care
- Confederate Monument in Pioneer Park
- Certificates of occupancy
- DFR Responds to 3-Alarm House Fire in Far North Dallas
- DFR Contains Large Southwest Dallas Grass Fire
- DFR Battalion Chief Placed on Administrative Leave After Alleged Social Media Posts
- Husband and Wife Escape Northwest Dallas House Fire
- RIGHT Care Program Showing It Can Meet Behavioral Health Needs

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Please see the attached document compiling information provided to the media outlets for the June 9th, 2020 – June 15th, 2020 for your reference. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff.



T.G. Broadnax
City Manager

[Attachments]

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

Shopping for Groceries Survey

**LAST WEEK FOR
THE SHOPPING FOR
GROCERIES SURVEY!
TAKE IT HERE:**



City of Dallas

CITY OF DALLAS
OFFICE OF
INNOVATION

www.surveymonkey.com/r/codfoodaccess

Respuestas de la encuesta de compra de alimentos

¡ESTA ES LA ÚLTIMA SEMANA PARA LA ENCUESTA DE COMPRAS DE COMESTIBLES! HAZLA AQUÍ:



City of Dallas

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www.surveymonkey.com/r/codfoodaccess

**Public Affairs & Outreach
Media Requests
June 9 – June 15**

Date Submitted: 6/15/2020

Topic: RIGHT care

Inquiry: FOX 4 requested to interview several staff members to discuss RIGHT care. The story was aired Monday night and can be viewed here, <https://www.fox4news.com/news/two-dallas-police-officers-take-on-police-reform>

Submitted By: Catherine Cuellar and Roxana Rubio (Dallas Fire-Rescue, Dallas Police Department)

Media Entity: Alex Boyer (FOX 4)

Date Submitted: 6/13/2020

Topic: Confederate Monuments

Inquiry: Various media entities inquired about the confederate monument on Pioneer Park and whether it would be removed. COM updated all entities as information became available by sharing emergency motions filed with the courts and court rulings, as rulings were received.

Submitted By: Roxana Rubio and Catherine Cuellar

Media Entity: CBS 11, NBC 5, WFAA, NBC National, ABC National, WBAP, KRLD, FOX 4, Univision

Date Submitted: 6/12/2020

Topic: Certificates of Occupancy

Inquiry: Dallas Morning News (DMN) inquired about # of handed out in March 2019, April 2019, May 2019 to compare with # of COs handed out in March 2020, April 2020, May 2020. They also wanted to know:

1. Are fewer restaurants trying to open right now?
2. Are inspectors still as busy as they've ever been?
3. What's been the climate with restaurant owners taking chances on opening a new concept?

SDC PIO sent DMN a report that compares the COs for restaurants/bars issued for the requested months and the following statement:

According to Kris Sweckard, Director of Sustainable Development and Construction, "The three Sanitarians in the Building Inspection division are performing inspections of the construction or remodels of restaurants and bars as usual."

We hesitate to speculate on the climate surrounding opening new restaurant concepts, but we are always willing to assist residents pursuing new development with life safety measures and adherence to Dallas Building Code requirements.

Submitted By: Deme Jackson (Sustainable Development and Construction)

Media Entity: Dallas Morning News

Date Submitted: 6/8/2020

Topic: McKinney/Cole Two way conversion

Inquiry: NBC 5 inquired about the two way conversion of McKinney and Cole. They wanted to know the project process, estimated total cost and schedule. COM responded with the following info:

The council item will authorize an agreement with TxDOT, which is the first step. Following the authorization, the agreement will need to be executed by the City and TxDOT. This two-way conversion of McKinney and Cole is Public Work's first Design-Build project, so TxDOT must authorize their Design-Build team selection process. Once Public Works receives TxDOT approval on the process, Public Works will promote the Design-Build project and anticipate awarding the project to a Design-Build Team in the Fall. The project is estimated to start in early 2021 and will last approximately two years. The total project cost is estimated to be \$21,042,053.00

Submitted By: Demeshia Jackson (Public Works)

Media Entity: NBC 5



CITY OF DALLAS

Dallas Fire-Rescue Department
Media Requests: June 2 – 9, 2020.

Tuesday, June 9th: All Local Media Outlets - Hi there..... we're seeing word about a fire on Woods Edge Drive. Do you have any details?

City Response - At 11:52, Dallas Fire-Rescue units were assigned to a 911 call for a structure fire at a home, located at 17616 Woods Edge Drive, in far North Dallas.

When firefighters arrived at the large two-story residence, smoke and fire could be seen coming from the back of the home and through part of the roof. Efforts were mostly defensive in nature, as second and third alarm (manpower) requests were transmitted to help mitigate the situation. Firefighters are currently using a combination of ladder pipes and handlines to contain and suppress the flames as well as protect neighboring homes from exposure damage.

There were two people, and elderly couple, inside home when the fire began. One of the occupants told investigators that they noticed fire coming from the back of the home before they self-evacuated themselves, with their two dogs, and called 911. The fire quickly spread into, and throughout, the entire attic before making its way down the frame of the home itself; leaving behind significant damage.

There have been no injuries reported as a result of the fire, but the Safety Division is keeping a close eye on the circulation of firefighters in and out of the operation to ensure the heat doesn't become more of a factor than it already is. The cause of the fire is currently undetermined.

Tuesday, June 9th: CBS 11 (Giles Hudson) – Can you please tell me what's going on at the grass/brush fire at 408 and Kiest?

City Response - At 13:13, Dallas Fire-Rescue units were assigned to a Grass fire in an area, located near the Spur 408 and Kiest Boulevard intersection, in Southwest Dallas.

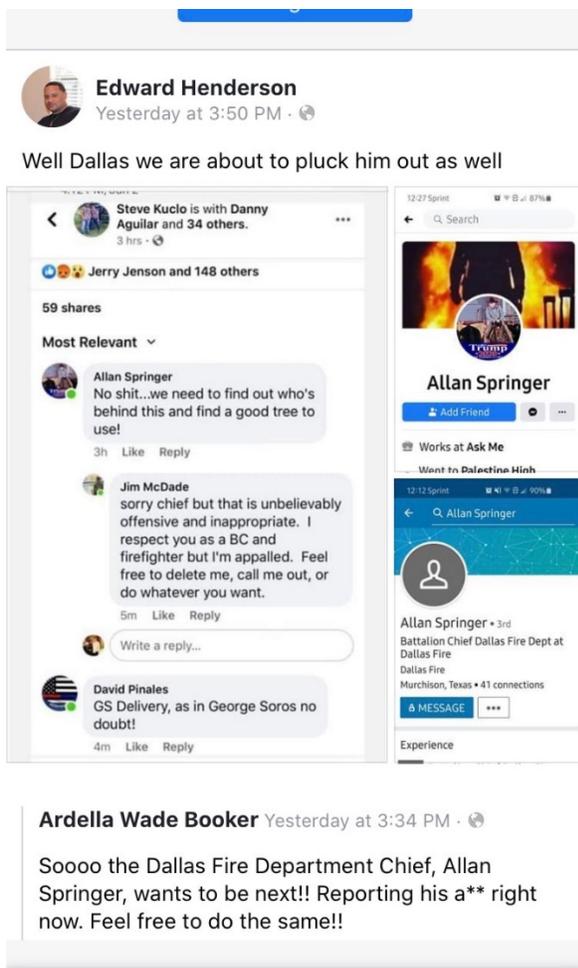
DFR dispatched the equivalent of a Grass and structure fire response, to include a number of engines, trucks, boosters and a brush truck. Additionally, DFR dispatched its tactical tender (water supply unit); and Dallas County assisted with 2 more tenders to help contain and extinguish the fire.

According to emergency response personnel, the fire involved an area approximately 10-15 acres, located west of Spur 408 and south of Kiest. Initially, there were two structures that appeared to be threatened, but attack teams were able to cut the fire line off before it reached any structures. The fire has been mostly contained, but crews are still on the scene mopping up hot spots before they eventually clear the scene.

Thursday, June 11th: WFAA 8 (Matt Howerton) - Hey Jason,

Are you aware of this social media post circulating?

It appears to involve a battalion chief making some racist remarks.



City Response – Dallas Fire-Rescue is aware of the recent social media posts allegedly by one of its members. The department’s Internal Affairs Division in conducting a thorough investigation into the matter to determine the necessary course of action going forward.

Friday, June 12th: CBS 11 (Giles Hudson), Dallas Morning News (Charlie Scudder) and NBC 5 (Claire Cardona) - Hi sir... Do you have a statement on Chief Springer? Is he under internal investigation? Suspended? It doesn't sound like he's been fired but wanted to make sure.

Thanks, sir.

City Response - Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) has been made aware of the recent social media posts possibly by one of its members. The department's Internal Affairs Division is conducting an investigation into the matter to aid the department in determining the next course of action.

Saturday, June 13th: CBS National News (Lizzie Crowley) - Lizzie Crowley here from CBS National News/ CBS This Morning with Gayle King. I am reaching out to see if Dallas Fire Rescue is issuing a statement in regards to the comments made by Fire Battalion Chief Allan Springer over facebook.

<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/firefighters-call-for-dallas-fire-rescue-battalion-chief-to-resign-or-be-fired-after-racist-facebook-posts/287-81ccba3e-7158-4a47-a095-e7b7c86d4ed6>

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns over this request.

City Response - Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) is aware of recent social media posts allegedly made by one of its members. The department's Internal Affairs Division is investigating the matter. Although its findings will determine next steps, any perception of insensitivity by a city employee is unfortunate. Violations of city policy (including Administrative Directive 2-52 regarding social media and social networking) will be addressed with swift and appropriate action. We all want answers and justice, and are pursuing both with fairness and urgency.

At a time of deep pain resulting from crisis and unrest, we will make progress as One Dallas with empathy, ethics, excellence, and equity.

Sunday, June 14th: Dallas Morning News (Dana Branham) and CBS 11 (Robbie Hoy) - One of my colleagues noticed a fire about 4 p.m. at the intersection of Marsh Lane and Walnut Hill Lane and had asked me to check in about it — do you have any details about what that is? I'm not seeing any details on the DFR active calls page — it appears to be displaying some older incidents, if I'm not mistaken.

If you happened to have any details on this I'd really appreciate it. If not, my apologies for the vague request.

City Response - At [15:46](#) Dallas Fire-Rescue responded to a 911 call for a structure fire at a home, located at 9990 Constance Street, in Northwest Dallas.

The fire actually began near the fence line of the house next door, spread to the home's car port, and engulfed a truck in flames before spreading to the house. There were two people, a husband and wife, inside the house when the fire began, but they were able to escape safely.

Approximately 25-30 firefighters worked to extinguish the flames in just under an hour, but thankfully there were no reported injuries.

The cause of the fire is undetermined, but believed to be accidental in nature.

Monday, June 15th: Fox 4 News (Alex Boyer) – In response to an interview request, which came in on June 9th, on the RIGHT Care Program, DFR, DPD, the City PAO and Parkland Hospital coordinated and granted an interview request on Monday, June 15th at 3:30 p.m. which aired that evening at the following link:

<https://www.fox4news.com/news/dallas-pilot-program-seeing-great-success-by-pairing-officers-with-social-workers-for-911-calls>