

**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): 146 418 6448**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 **Convened:** 12:30 p.m. **Adjourned**: 1:42 p.m.

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

Jan Hart Black, Chair Verna G. Mitchell (Dist. 3) Ana Camacho, Manager Carmen Arana (Dist. 1) Myrtis Evans (Dist. 4) Mandrell Drakes, Outreach Representative

VACANT (Dist. 2) Beverly White (Dist. 9) Jessica Galleshaw, Director

M. Ja’net Huling (Dist. 5) Jeri Baker (Dist. 10) Myckycle Hart, Caseworker

Marilyn Daniels (Dist. 6) Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker

Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7) Barbara Martinez, City Attorney

Debbie Austin (Dist. 8) David Noguera, Director

Bill Gart (Dist. 11) Tim Oliver, Assistant Director

Zelene Lovitt (Dist. 12) Daniel Pollak, Manager

J. Peter Kline (Dist. 13) Daryl Quarles, Manager Sarah Wick (Dist. 14) Lupe Rios, Administrator

1. **Call to Order**

Jan Hart Black, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) monthly meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and conducted

a roll call to establish a quorum.

1. **No Public Comments**
2. **Approval of June 22, 2020 Minutes**

Ja’net Huling made a motion to approve the June 2020 minutes. Zelene Lovitt seconded the motion. The Commissioners

voted in favor of the motion.

1. **Bulk Trash/Sanitation Collection Changes Presentation, City of Dallas Sanitation Services**

Chair Black stated that she had received concerns from some commissioners regarding potential plans to move garbage collection from alley to street collection in some areas, and the impact this might have on the older population of Dallas. On their behalf she requested a presentation regarding new plans for garbage collection. Tim Oliver, Director of Sanitation Services, presented an update on sanitation services and changes in bulk trash and sanitation collection. In July 2020, Sanitation Services received approval for city residents to place ten cubic yards of bulk trash in their yards once a month. On August 3, 2020, Sanitation Services briefed the Environment and Sustainability Committee on alley collection efficiency opportunities. Results of a cost analysis indicated a 6.6 million dollar cost savings impact to move all sanitation collections from alleys to the curbs. Mr. Oliver stated that there are no firm plans to do so yet, but that he would keep the SAC informed. Residents will be given the opportunity to provide input into the potential changes before any final decisions are made.

1. **City Operations and Services Update:**

* Ana Camacho, Senior Services Manager, Office of Community Care (OCC), provided an update on Senior Services.

As of July 2020, senior services staff served 984 unduplicated clients for referrals and information exceeding their program goal for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 by more than double. In June 2020, the City of Dallas received funding for homeless prevention from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Homeless Housing and Services Program for utility assistance for seniors who have been impacted by COVID-19. Senior Services continues to seek creative ways to reach out to seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic by partnering with the Office of Public Affairs and Outreach, non-profits, and other community resource providers. The quarterly newsletter and the senior services flyer are posted on the city website for easy access. The Senior Medical Transportation Program transitioned to the DART Rides Rider Assistance Program (RAP), an on demand transportation service for seniors who have no other means of transportation.

* Jessica Galleshaw, OCC Director, provided an update on contract partners and changes in programs and services due to COVID-19.
* The dental services program transitioned from providing emergency-based services only to providing traditional dental services at 50% capacity by appointment only.
* The Ombudsman Program continues to respond to complaints and to track client satisfaction with resolving client issues. Debbie Austin stated that the Ombudsmen will be taking a new training, provided Personal Protective Equipment, and given the option to go into nursing homes or to continue working from home.
* Libraries Programs Update provided by Heather Lowe:
* Library staff continues to follow guidance from the City Manager.
* Libraries implemented curb-side pick-up services.
* In phase three of the city plan, libraries will transition to in-person appointments.
* The library does not have specific programming in their budget for senior services because they are privately funded.
* Housing HIPP Program Update

David Noguera, Director, Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization, provided a brief overview of the Home Improvement and Preservation Program (HIPP). This home repair program largely operates on funding received from Community Development Block Grant, three million dollars allocated to the program for minor repair, major repair, and reconstruction. The inspector and contractors make home visits to determine if the repairs needed are major or minor.

The minor repair program was designed to leverage private resources from the nonprofit community to provide housing repairs to low-income individuals. The challenge is that it comes with a matching grant requirement: The nonprofit must match half of the cost of repairs up to $5,000. Nonprofits struggle to come up with the match. Last year, the housing department only received interest from three organizations in participating in the minor home repair program then two withdrew their applications. In June 2020, Mr. Noguera asked the City Council to amend the program so that private contractors could be paid to provide minor home repairs. Most of the work done this year will be major repair and reconstruction. The program will only be able to serve about 80 homes so Mr. Noguera is looking at other ways to fill the void.

Mr. Noguera also reviewed several targeted housing initiatives:

* Two million dollars in discretionary funds was secured from Council District 6. Up to $10,000 grant funds per home will be allocated to residents with home repair needs who reside in West Dallas. Six-hundred thousand dollars of discretionary funding was secured from District 4 for the Tenth Street Historic District.
* Dallas Tomorrow Funds, another targeted repair program that operates off of citations issued to home owners who have code compliance issues, generates about $500,000 a year. Those funds are utilized to assist residents who have code violations and cannot afford to repair their homes themselves.
* The Neighborhood Empowerment Zone provides property tax abatements for ten years for those residents who invest a minimum of $5,000 of home repair work to upgrade or improve their home.
* The Tangled Title Program provides legal service for low-income home owners whose name is not on the deed.
* Referral Service: List of organizations that provide free and low-cost home repair services
* Home Repairs for Immigrants: Housing Department is looking into ways to serve refugee communities.

1. **SAC Funding Priorities Status**

J. Peter Klein, Chair, Funding Priorities Ad Hoc Sub-Committee, reported that the recommended funding priorities approved at the SAC meeting on June 22, 2020 aligned with the proposed budget.

1. **Adjournment**

Carmen Arana made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:42 p.m. Bill Gart seconded the motion.

APPROVED BY:



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Jan Hart Black, Chair

Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)