



City of Dallas

**SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION
WORKSHOP
MEADOWS CONFERENCE CENTER
2900 LIVE OAK, DALLAS, TEXAS
Monday, January 27, 2020
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
(With working lunch)**

Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, January 27, 2020

Convened: 9:28 a.m.

Adjourned: 1:40 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Jan Hart Black, Chair
VACANT (Dist. 2)
Verna G. Mitchell (Dist. 3)
Myrtis Evans (Dist. 4)
M. Ja'net Huling (Dist. 5)
Marilyn Daniels (Dist. 6)
Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7)
Debbie Austin (Dist. 8)
Beverly White (Dist. 9)
Jeri Baker (Dist. 10)
Bill Gart (Dist. 11)
Zelene Lovitt (Dist. 12)
J. Peter Kline (Dist. 13)

Committee Members Absent:

Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)
Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

City of Dallas Staff Present:

Ana Camacho, Manager
Nadia Chandler-Hardy, Assistant City Manager
Candy Cobyln, Manager
Jessica Galleshaw, Director
Myckycle Hart, Caseworker
Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker
Barbara Martinez, City Attorney
James Ramirez, Caseworker

1. **Call to Order**
Jan Hart Black, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) monthly meeting to order at 9:28 a.m. and conducted a roll call to establish a quorum.
2. **No Public Comments**
3. **Approval of December 16, 2019 Minutes**
Jeri Baker made a motion to approve the December 2019 minutes. Bill Gart seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.
4. **Workshop Kick-Off and Welcome Address**
Nadia Chandler-Hardy serves as Assistant City Manager for the City of Dallas. She oversees the Office of Community Care, Dallas Animal Services, Code Compliance, and the Office of Homeless Solutions. She stated that "our goal" is to support the SAC by working with them to implement the Dallas Age-Friendly Dallas Plan (AFDP) adopted by the City of Dallas.

Public safety will be a huge funding priority during the budget development process. Two major senior issues are transportation and housing. The transportation needs of seniors are included in the city's master mobility plan. The City of Dallas is working with DART on a transportation on demand plan. The results of the Annual Point in Time Homeless Count revealed that the average age of a homeless person is between 55 to 60 years. There is a drop-in center for homeless youth at Fannie C. Harris Youth Center – The Promise House.

5. **2020 Commission Priorities and Goal Setting Discussion**

Commissioner Black facilitated a committee discussion on priorities and goal setting. The City Code provisions which established the role of the Commission as advisory to the Mayor, Council, and City Manager were reviewed. SAC goals from previous years were reviewed as well as major changes since those goals were adopted. The major change from prior years in the Commission's work was the adoption of the AFDP as a guide and framework for the City regarding older Dallasites.

Pursuant to an extensive discussion of goals, the SAC agreed to the following:

- Fully incorporate the AFDP into the SAC's work and structure
- Provide sound recommendations to the City Council, quantifiable when possible
- Cultivate close ties with council members, building district relationships as appropriate

6. **Voting Item: Incorporate Agreed Upon Goals into Approved 2019 Annual Report**

Zelene Lovitt made a motion to adopt the top three SAC goals. Verna Mitchell seconded the motion. The Commission agreed to incorporate the three agreed upon goals into the approved 2019 Annual Report.

7. **Gift Policy & Gift Disclosure Policy**

Barbara Martinez, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office, explained the rules regarding gifts for boards and commissions. Gift rules can be found under the Code of Ethics.

General Rule: City Officials may not solicit a gift or benefit and cannot use their office for public gain.

Exceptions to the General Rule: Okay if gift is under \$50. If over \$50, City Official must disclose. City Officials are free to accept complimentary tickets but must oversee venue and attend the event. City Officials should also attend events that they sponsor.

Ms. Martinez advised the Commissioners to ask for the City Attorney's opinion if any question or concern about a gift.

8. **District 11 Senior Affairs Commissioner Achievements for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19**

Chairman Black asked Irwin "Bill" Gart, SAC Vice Chair, Housing and Information Sub-Committee Chair to describe the work he performs in his district, to serve as a basis for discussion of options for district work by Commissioners. She remarked that each district is unique, and each Commissioner will decide how she or he can best work in their districts after consultation with their Councilmembers.

Commissioner Gart served as Chair of his crime watch committee for 30 years and created a 5-star board. His district now has an additional six neighborhood patrols of City Marshals. Mr. Gart developed a clothing and food drive about five years ago. Volunteers collect 700 to 800 pounds of food per year. He has been talking to the Director of the Office for Homeless Solutions about expanding the program citywide to collect food, clothing, and shoes. Mr. Gart oversees his district's National Night Out and raised \$750 this year. He also attends the VIP Crime Watch Program in the North Central District.

Once or twice a month, Commissioner Gart meets with other District 11 Commissioners to keep updated on district activities, represents the SAC for the Public Safety Commission, purchased five bikes and received five donated bikes to honor the fallen police officers, meets with his Councilmember once a month or every other month and shares a copy of the minutes with him.

Other Commissioners described their district work and their relationships with their Councilmembers.

Cannon Flowers stated that he attends community meetings in his district. Seniors in District 7 selected transportation and isolation as their two main concerns.

Ms. Mitchell meets with her council member monthly. Her goal is to educate the seniors in District 3 to keep them informed. She coordinates a monthly leadership luncheon.

Debbie Austin attends a coalition breakfast once a month in the Redbird area. She has been working on census counting. She shares the Seniors Blue Book with seniors in District 8.

Ms. Baker attends Council Member McGough's Impact meeting once a month in District 10. She attended the groundbreaking celebration for Willie B. Johnson Recreation Center.

Myrtis Evans participated in distributing Christmas bags for seniors in District 4. She is planning an Easter event and a Valentine's dinner. She has been focusing on cleaning up her community.

9. **Transportation Sub-Committee Report**

Commissioner Flowers, SAC Commissioner and Transportation Sub-Committee Chair, reported on the Transportation Sub-Committee and the Senior Transportation Program. He formed the Seniors' Access to Transportation Task Force. Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) provided a DART bus route map pinpointing residents 65 years of age and older.

According to the results of the DART's transportation survey, zip code 75228 has largest number of seniors for one zip code with no access to any bus route. Underserved areas include 45,000 residents in East/South Dallas with no to little access to transportation and 700 seniors with no access to transportation.

Top two needs for transportation:

- shopping and personal
- medical and dental

10. **Presentation: Senior Transportation Program Update and Partnership Pilot**

Jessica Galleshaw, Director, Office of Community Care, provided an update on the Senior Transportation Program, history of program implementation, review of program operations, client assessment, and lessons learned.

She provided an overview of the DART Rides Pilot Program which provides "on demand" transportation in two zip codes, 75217 and 75228. DART subsidizes 75% of the transportation. Resident pays 25% of the transportation fare. DART will administer the taxi voucher pilot subsidy program until April of 2020 including funding to support client transition. The goal is to expand the program to include all zip codes by asking City Council to approve the plan on February 27, 2020.

Ms. Galleshaw stated that seniors have a lot of other needs other than medical that lend to their overall wellness. Paratransit is not limited to medical appointments. The DART Rides Program fills the gap between DART and DART Paratransit. The Office of Community Care Senior Services will continue to provide coupons for DART Paratransit.

Commissioner Black requested a program evaluation be conducted six months prior to the ending of the pilot program. Ms. Galleshaw agreed.

11. **Voting Item: SAC Support of Partnership Pilot**

Commissioner Flowers made a motion to approve the Partnership Pilot. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

12. **Office of Community Care Senior Services**

Ana Camacho, Manager, Office of Community Care, Senior Services, presented a summary of quarterly activities. Senior Affairs Dallas newsletters are distributed to multiple city partners. Commissioners will reach out to staff if they are interested in distributing some newsletters. Commissioners Gart and Baker offered to distribute copies of newsletters for the Office of Community Care.

13. **Upcoming Events**

The next Senior Affairs Committee Meeting will be held on February 24, 2020 at 12:00pm at Dallas City Hall/5ES.

14. **Adjournment**

The SAC meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Jan Hart Black, Chair
Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)