

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 7, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Office of Homeless Solutions – American Rescue Plan Act Strategy Sessions**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the City Council with a timeline of OHS listening sessions to identify our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project and spending goals.

OHS Strategy Sessions

On April 26th, the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) sent a survey to direct services providers. The purpose of the survey was to identify gaps in the homeless services system and prioritize discussion topics for upcoming listening session concerning OHS goals and projects for anticipated ARPA funding. This survey was presented, not as a holistic image of the current homeless services system but as a means of establishing a framework for a discussion, with ample room for provider feedback as to what should be included. The results of this survey will inform the topics and help identify and prioritize projects for the OHS-Provider discussions on May 21st and May 25th. This feedback will be presented at the June 10th Citizens Homelessness Commission (CHC) meeting and shared with the City Council via a briefing memo on June 11th.

OHS acknowledges that input from providers and the general public are equally important and, therefore, have scheduled a second round of listening sessions in order to methodically capture the concerns of both groups. The process and planning for the second round of listening sessions will be identical to the first round with one exception. In the June 11th briefing memo, you will be asked to share information about the listening sessions with your constituents and refer interested participants to OHS. Should further strategy sessions prove necessary, OHS will schedule them at that time.

At the conclusion of all listening sessions, OHS will use all feedback received to identify goals and present recommendations for consideration by the CHC, Housing and Homelessness Solutions Committee (HHS), and the City Council. Those presentations are expected to begin shortly after the City Council's summer recess.

This is an ongoing process with continued updates planned to keep you informed of this important initiative as we continue to address homelessness in our community.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Christine Crossley, Director of Office of Homeless Solutions.


Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert
Chief of Staff

C: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

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