

**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):** **146 045 1802**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 **Convened:** 12:00 p.m. **Adjourned**: 1:43 p.m.

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

Jan Hart Black, Chair Marilyn Daniels (Dist. 6) Ana Camacho, Manager Carmen Arana (Dist. 1) Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7) Thor Erickson, Manager Portia M. Cantrell (Dist. 2) Jessica Galleshaw, Director

Verna Mitchell (Dist. 3) **Guest** Myckycle Hart, Caseworker

VACANT (Dist. 4) Susan Williams Ali Hatefi, Assistant Director

Ja’net Huling (Dist. 5) Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker

Debbie Austin (Dist. 8) Heather Lowe, Administrator

Beverly White (Dist. 9) Barbara Martinez, City Attorney Jeri Baker (Dist. 10) Daryl Quarles, Manager Bill Gart (Dist.11) James Ramirez, Caseworker Zelene Lovitt (Dist. 12) Lupe Rios, Administrator J. Peter Kline (Dist. 13) Kimberly Tolbert, Chief of Staff Sarah Wick (Dist. 14) Efrain Trejo, Manager

**Call to Order**

Jan Hart Black, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) monthly meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and

conducted roll call to establish a quorum.

**No Public Comments**

**Approval of December 14, 2020 Minutes**

Zelene Lovitt made a motion to approve the December 2020 minutes. Carmen Arana seconded the motion. The

Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**City of Dallas Programs Updates**

Efrain Trejo, Manager II Department of Public Works (DPW), presented an update on the accessibility initiative and the Sidewalk Master Plan, part of the American Disability Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, Phase II. The DPW

reviewed the data on existing conditions and is currently working on project prioritization and gathering public input through public engagement and outreach. Mr. Trejo anticipates implementing the Sidewalk Master Plan in late April, early May 2021.

Areas selected for improvements will be based on geographical data and prioritization criteria components.

Commissioner Black inquired about developing a plan to reach out to older individuals for their input on the sidewalk plan.

Mr. Trejo recommended having someone join the Sidewalk Advisory Group. Beverly White volunteered to join the group

and attend the meetings. Verna Mitchell offered to be a back-up if Commissioner White cannot attend.

Daryl Quarles, Senior Program Division Manager, Dallas Park and Recreation Department, presented a recap of past events in 2020 and a forecast for 2021. Dallas Park and Recreation concluded 2020 with a community outreach. Year to date, Dallas Park and Recreation served over 50,000 nutritious meals. In 2021, staff will continue virtual events, drive- through events, and drive-through COVID testing. They are working with WellMed Senior Center to provide the COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Quarles is planning to coordinate a huge drive-through event during Older Americans Month.

Heather Lowe, Adult Services Administrator, City of Dallas Libraries, provided a recap of 2020 library activities and a

forecast for 2021. In Fiscal Year 2019-2020, Dallas Public Libraries offered about 2000 programs focused on seniors

and received about 3.3 million check-outs from cardholders, 55 years and older. Tax assistance will be available in

2021. Isolation programs such as Book Clubs, cooking classes, history and literature classes are also being offered.

One of the special initiatives offered this year is Memory Care Story times for people with dementia and their

caretakers. Activity kits for people with dementia will be available for check-out. Upcoming programs include Feel Good Fridays, Coffee Club, and Sentimental Treasures. The library also offers regularly scheduled programs and events at dallas.org/library. Technical assistance by phone is available by appointment.

Ana Y. Camacho, Senior Services Program Manager, provided an update on the Office of Community Care, Senior

Services Program and Contract Partners.

* The winter edition of the *Senior Affairs Dallas Newsletter* is available and being share with community and partners.
* Staff partnered with AARP & Alzheimer’s Association for a bilingual virtual event on December 8, 2020, the Dallas Public Library for a virtual event on December 16, 2020, and The Veterans Recovery Center for a virtual presentation of the Senior Services Program on January 20, 2021.
* Staff participated in the EWS! Virtual Presenter Training on January 22, 2021.
* In December 2019, staff provided the highest number of referrals for home repairs compared to the highest number of referrals for financial assistance in December 2020.
* Ms. Camacho responded to question from Chair Black regarding ways to get the word out to seniors on sidewalk input. Sarah Wick suggested writing an article in the newsletter about the sidewalk plan. Debbie Austin recommended working with Daryl Quarles to post information on the sidewalk plan on the Park and Recreation Facebook page.

Thor Erickson, Manager III, Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization, provided an update on senior data.

* In Fiscal Year 2019-2020, 59% of the applications for the Home Improvement and Preservation Program (HIPP) were received by City of Dallas residents, 65 and older.
* In Fiscal Year 2020-2021, 54% of the applications were received from older adults.
* Applications are currently being accepted from citizens living in the Tenth Street Historic District and West Dallas.
* City residents must be referred by City of Dallas Code Compliance for the Dallas Tomorrow Funds Program.

Mr. Erickson asked the SAC to share the information about the available funding to help spend the money so that he could

request more funds for next fiscal year.

**Senior Affairs Commission Annual Report Adoption**

Commissioner Wick made a motion to adopt the Annual Report. Commissioner Lovitt seconded the motion. The SAC

Annual Report was unanimously approved by the Commission.

**Subcommittee Updates**

* Commissioner Mitchell, Chair, Safety, Health & Community Support Subcommittee reported that the subcommittee met on January 11, 2021 at 11:00 am. The speaker, Denise Holly, Dallas County Health and Human Services, talked about COVID-19, self-protection, and preventing the spread of the virus. Volunteers in District 3 have been calling and emailing seniors regarding vaccine registration and site updates.
* Commissioner Wick, Chair, Communications Ad Hoc Subcommittee reported that the subcommittee, formed to explore measureable ways to enhance communication and share information with seniors in each district, had one virtual meeting.
* Ms. Wick drafted a letter to the Commission requesting input from the Commissioners regarding ways they are currently communicating and sharing information. The feedback she received included:
  + Information is being distributed through the libraries, faith-based organizations, other organizations, social service agencies, at meetings and neighborhood associations.
  + Ms. Wick contacted her City Council Office in District 14 to ask them to share information with their contact mailing list.
  + Cannon Flowers suggested partnering with Dallas County to disseminate information and suggested writing an article in the newsletter about ways to communicate information to seniors.

**Senior Affairs Commissioners District Updates**

Ja’net Huling reported that she will be helping with vaccine registration and handing out flyers at an event in Pleasant

Grove for District 5 on Sunday, January 31, 2021.

Commissioner White reported that an in-person, vaccine registration event will be held District 9. She plans to pass out

flyers in her neighborhood in 75228.

Commissioner Austin assisted Council Member Atkins in District 8 with connecting over 100 people to a pastor of a church

hoping to form a partnership to help them with housing during the COVID crisis.

Jeri Baker attended a virtual town hall meeting in District 10 advocating for the expansion of Medicaid.

Portia Cantrell, District 2, plans to reach out to the other Commissioners. She is a member of the LGBTQ community.

As a new member of the SAC, she has a lot of questions.

**Upcoming Events**

* February 22, 2021: Senior Affairs Committee Meeting

**Adjournment**

The SAC meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



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Jan Hart Black, Chair

Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)